SC votes 8-7 to stop NBN deal

By Leila B. Salaverria

BY A VOTE OF 8-7, THE SUPREME COURT yesterday ordered a stop to the implementation of the $329-million contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project, which has been tainted with allegations of bribery, overprice and sexual favors.

The seven justices who voted against the temporary restraining order (TRO) were mostly new appointees to the tri-

SC VOTES/ A21

METRO / A25

No classes today at Ateneo, 23 other QC schools near Sandigan

BUSINESS / B1

Exports jumped 4.5% in July to $4.2B

NEWS / A4

POEA throws out case filed by 26 Pinoy nurses, therapists vs Sentosa agency

NEWS / A21

Lacson: GMA driving force behind NBN deal

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, September 12, 2007 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 276 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

9/11 shot takes toll on woman photographer

SHANKSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA —VALENCIA M. McClatchey thought she was doing the right thing when she gave the FBI a copy of her photo of the mushroom cloud that rose over the hill outside her home after United Flight 93 crashed in a field here on Sept. 11, 2001.

And, after it became apparent that hers

9/11 SHOT/ A12

AFTER 6 YEARS, 4 MONTHS, 17 DAYS

Judgment Day for Erap

All roads to Palace sealed: 8,000 troops stand by

By Nikko Dizon, Michael Lim Ubac and Alcuin Papa

ARMY REINFORCEMENTS OF 2,000 soldiers, an infantry company with armored personnel carriers, a helicopter squadron, K-9 and explosives and ordnance teams are on standby to augment a 6,000-strong police force just in case protests erupt in violence in the capital today.

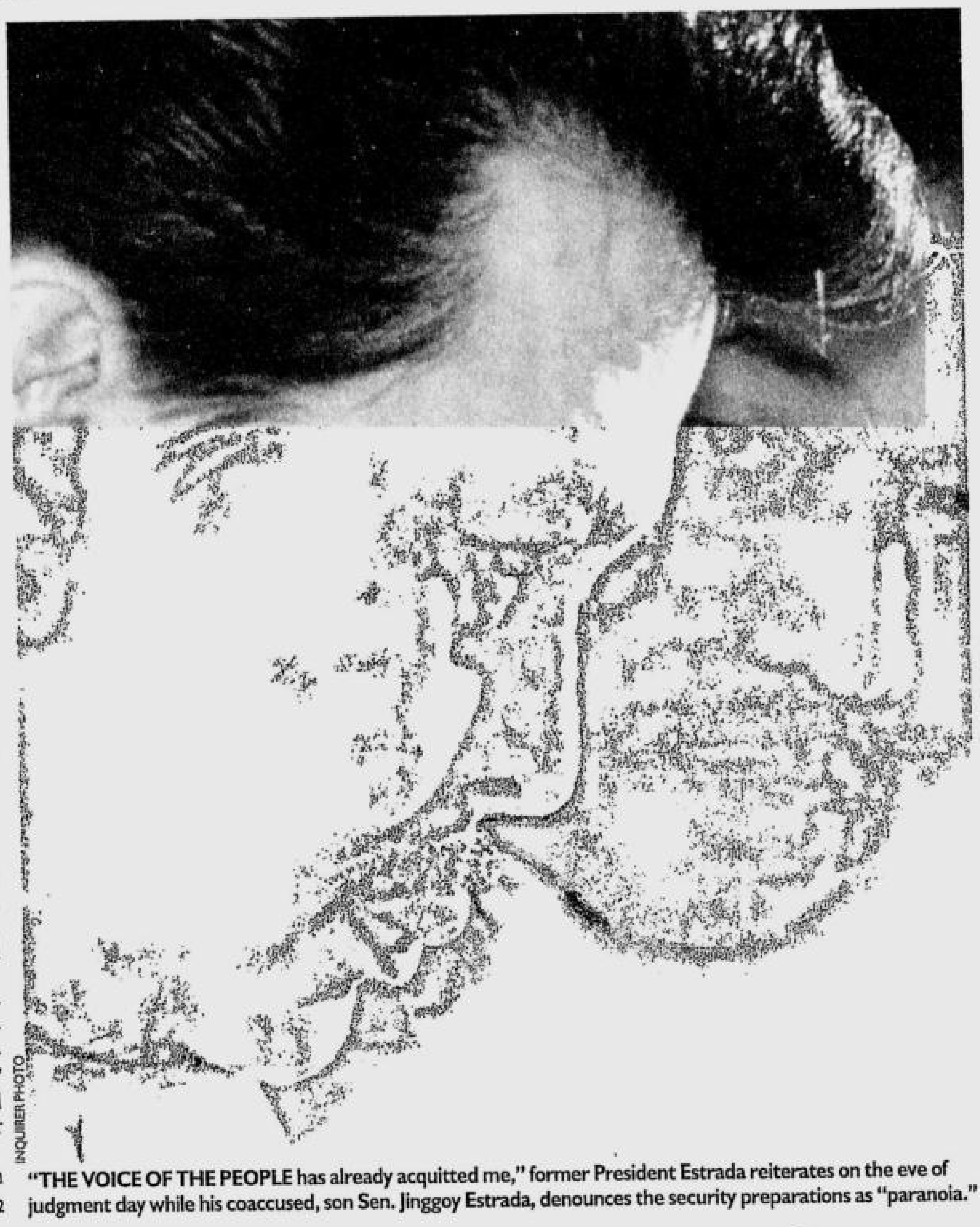
Roads leading to Malacañang were sealed off with military trucks, barbed wire fences and container vans on the eve of the promulgation of the Sandiganbayan decision on the plunder charges against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

All of President Macapagal-Arroyo's scheduled activities today have been cancelled, including a pilgrimage to the shrine of the Virgin Mary in Lipa City to pray for peace and unity. She has been advised to stay in the Palace.

Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada in a privilege speech yesterday denounced as a sign of "paranoia" the security preparations and Ms Arroyo's scrapping of her scheduled activities.

"Is there a ghost of her own

ALL ROADS/ A22


INQUIRER PHOTO

"THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE has already acquitted me," former President Estrada reiterates on the eve of judgment day while his coaccused, son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, denounces the security preparations as "paranoia."

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Norman Bordadora

JOSEPH ESTRADA TURNED TO PRAYER ON THE eve of Judgment Day, spending a quiet afternoon by himself and taking a stroll in his sprawling vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, where he has been under house arrest since 2004.

"I pray hard that the justices will decide based on the merits of the case. I pray that they will be enlightened," he told the INQUIRER yesterday on the phone, reiterating his earlier remark that the Sandiganbayan's Special Division that will issue its verdict today on his plunder and perjury cases had been created precisely to convict him.

And then, speaking like a powerful man exhorting his partisans, the ousted President called for calm among his supporters, saying he was prepared for whatever verdict the court might issue: *"Sila ay huminahon sapagkat ano man ang magiging desisyon ay handa na ako.* I cherish more the voice of the people, who have already acquitted me.

"My freedom is no longer my concern because what is more important is the freedom of our people in their search for truth and their fight against poverty."

He also said as much in a taped message aired yesterday by radio station dzBB.

Estrada, 70, is accused of amassing more than P4 billion in gambling payoffs and tobacco tax kickbacks, and of falsely declaring his assets.

The court will also rule on the

JUDGMENT DAY/ A23

The Verdict

MOMENT OF TRUTH

High court OKs live TV-radio coverage

By Leila B. Salaverria

PEOPLE CAN WATCH HISTORY unfold on their TV sets or listen to it on radio today after the Supreme Court allowed the live airing of the promulgation of the verdict in the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Acting on the urgent motion of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP), the high court yesterday gave the go-signal for the airing of the

HIGH COURT/ A23

Acquittal in 'unusual' case is trouble for GMA

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE FATE OF DEPOSED PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada is not the only issue at stake when the Sandiganbayan issues its verdict today.

Beyond Estrada's freedom or continued incarceration is the validation—or repudiation—of Edsa II that drove him out of office six years ago, according to the spokesperson of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

An acquittal on plunder charges—a criminal offense with a maximum penalty of life imprisonment—would mean that the military-backed revolt was intrinsically wrong, said Rep. Rufus Rodriguez of Cagayan de Oro.

"That is the natural consequence of an acquittal," he told the INQUIRER yesterday. "It's really wrong to oust a sitting president because of these false allegations."

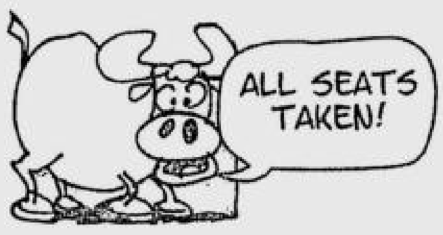
Estrada's legal counsel Rene Saguisag agreed, but maintained that even without an acquittal, Edsa II was illegal.

"It was never right," Saguisag said. "It was a naked power grab abetted by civil society, the military and the Church."

Saguisag told ABS-CBN that political considerations—including the Supreme Court's decision affirming Ms Arroyo's takeover of the presidency in 2001—might make it difficult for the court to acquit Estrada.

"That is the dilemma because punishment came before the trial," Saguisag said. "This is an extremely

ACQUITTAL/ A13


ALL SEATS TAKEN!

Up to defense lawyers to prolong agony

By Volt Contreras and TJ Burgonio

IT WILL ACTUALLY BE UP TO Joseph Estrada and his lawyers if they want to prolong his agony in the courtroom starting at 9 a.m. today.

According to Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta, accused parties have a "right" to have their verdict read out in full. (In some cases, the court can shorten the promulgation by limiting the reading to the "dis-

UP TO DEFENSE/ A10

EDWIN BACASMAS

IS SHE OR ISN'T SHE? Josephine Rose "JR" Estrada, who claims to be Estrada's daughter, went to his Tanay estate on Tuesday with her son but was not allowed entry. *(Story on Page A10.)*

3 justices hold Estrada's fate in their hands

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A SECURITY SHIELD HAS BEEN INSTALLED for three magistrates of the Sandiganbayan when they make history today. Two of them are potential candidates for the Supreme Court and the third has earned a reputation for toughness.

The three justices hold in their hands the fate of deposed President Joseph Estrada when he stands before them at about 9 a.m. to hear their verdict in his landmark corruption trial.

Until tensions subside, Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro and Associate Justices Diosdado Peralta and Francisco Villaruz Jr. will be closely guarded by the police and court security officers, Sheriff Ed Urieta said yesterday.

Urieta tried to downplay the extra security that has been provided the three, saying it was only "a precautionary measure" and

3 JUSTICES/ A10

AP

THE CLOSE-KNIT Estradas/Ejercitos have been holding a prayer vigil since late Sunday at the family residence on Polk Street, Greenhills. Sen. Jinggoy with wife Precy and Jackie Ejercito-Lopez flank the ex-President and ex-Sen. Loi Estrada (center). In the last row is Beaver Lopez (2nd from left) and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito (extreme right) and wife.

Second FRONTPAGE

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EZ2
9 27

SIX DIGIT
3 5 6 5 1 1

SUERTRES
Mid-Day 4 1 2 | Evening 4 8 2
(All in exact order)

6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN
4 13 17 26 34 35
P14,060,777.40

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Miriam chips away at Doble

Gives primer on retraction of testimony in privilege speech

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO YESTERday hammered away at the credibility of former Army Tl. Sgt. Vidal Doble Jr. as the star witness in the revived "Hello Garci" probe, noting that his "retraction"of his earlier testimony in the House of Representatives would carry little weight in a court of law.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, however, stood firmly behind his witness as he called on Bishop Socrates Villegas to appear before the Senate in its hearing on Monday.

In a privilege speech meant to guide senators on how to appreciate testimony in the Hello Garci hearings, Santiago said: "A retraction, sometimes called a recantation, takes place when a witness has previously given an extrajudicial statement or court testimony, but later repudiates what he said, by issuing a contradictory written statement or a contradictory testimony. As a general rule, retraction has little weight as evidence. This rule has been stated in very strong language in specific cases decided by the Philippine Supreme Court. The court has held in a number of cases that a recantation of a testimony is exceedingly unreliable."

Santiago was reacting to Doble's testimony at the Senate hearing on Friday where he reversed his previous testimonies in the House and the Court of Appeals where he had claimed that he was not part of any wiretapping operation.

Doble, however, claimed on Friday that the military intelligence service had wiretapped the President and that the military, with the participation of a Malacañang undersecretary, had detained his wife, Arlene, and children to shut him up in 2005.

According to Doble, he was forced to keep to himself what he knew about the "Hello Garci" tape the past two years because his wife and family were being held against their will in the quarters of the military chief of staff.

Doble also claimed that it was Arlene who had identified the Malacañang undersecretary to him as "Medy, a secretary of President Macapagal-Arroyo." The Palace official, later identified as Remedios Poblador of the legislative liaison office, also reportedly offered to "help" them.

Santiago said that based on the rules of evidence, Doble "bears the burden of proof" on his claims that he was part of an illegal wiretapping operation within the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, specifically the alleged 14-member Project: Lighthouse.

Santiago said she asked that Doble's wife, Arlene, also be made to testify because the rules of evidence dictate that a husband or wife cannot be examined without the consent of the other on any communication received in confidence by one from the other.

Santiago said that a senator could "impeach" Doble "by evidence that his general reputation for truth, honesty or integrity, was bad; or by evidence that he had given at other times, statements inconsistent with his present testimony, contradictory evidence."

But Lacson was far from giving up on his witness. He said Doble was more than prepared for further grilling by Santiago at the next hearing.

Since Malacañang had moved to block the appearance of all government officials in the probe, including presidential aide Poblador, Lacson said he would ask for Villegas to appear personally at the hearing because the letter-affidavit that he submitted to the inquiry on Friday was insufficient.

Reds buck amnesty, claim it's excuse to get Joma back

By Jerome Aning

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC Front of the Philippines (NDFP) yesterday rejected President Macapagal-Arroyo's amnesty proclamation, denouncing it as an "obvious attempt" to justify a request for the deportation of jailed communist leader Jose Ma. Sison.

Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines that has been waging a guerrilla war for over 30 years, was arrested in the Netherlands on Aug. 28 on charges he had ordered the killing of former comrades Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara in the Philippines.

Luis Jalandoni, NDFP negotiating panel chair who is also based in the Netherlands, said Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for the peace process, "let the cat out of the bag" when he said Sison would be covered by the amnesty proclamation.

The proclamation, issued earlier this month, needs the concurrence of Congress before it can be implemented.

The NDFP is the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines; its leaders are on self-imposed exile in the Netherlands.

Jalandoni predicted that Ms Arroyo's latest offer of amnesty would suffer the same fate as her earlier ones.

"[It] will suffer the same fate as the others, falling flat on its face as just another money-making scheme for corruption, not only by her and her minions in the Cabinet oversight committee for internal security but also by her chosen military and local officials," Jalandoni said.

Alleged surrenderees, he said, would be "manufactured" and provided with broken weapons. They will be paid measly sums for the weapons and livelihood programs, while huge amounts will be pocketed by these officials, he said.

Jalandoni claimed there was growing international condemnation of the Dutch government for the arrest of Sison and the raids on the NDFP office and the houses of its suspected members.

NETHERLANDS Ambassador to the Philippines Robert Vornis bids President Macapagal-Arroyo farewell in Malacañang as his tour of duty in the country comes to an end. The two discussed, among other things, the arrest and detention of communist leader Jose Ma. Sison in Utrecht. LYN RILLON

Torture victim recalls ordeal in AFP hands

By Allison W. Lopez

HE IS STILL TOO SCARED TO COME OUT of hiding. But in a 20-minute video shown to the press yesterday, 26-year-old Raymond Manalo of San Ildefonso, Bulacan, retold a chilling tale of over 100 days of non-stop torture in the hands of alleged military and paramilitary abductors.

"*Pinukpok nila ng baril yung mukha namin, binuhusan ng tubig sa ilong hangga't hindi kami makahinga, kinadena kami... Naramdaman namin na yun na yung aming katapusan* (They hit us in the face with guns, they poured water in our nostrils until we couldn't breathe, they chained us... We felt it was the end for us)."

Showing his face for the first time since he escaped from his captors on Aug. 13, the young farmer and charcoal gatherer, clad in a black T-shirt, said he and his brother, Reynaldo, were tortured continuously for three-and-a-half months in a military camp.

Reynaldo did not want to appear in the video. According to his lawyer, Ricardo Sunga III of the Free Legal Aid Group (FLAG), this could be due to the trauma the brothers experienced.

The Manalo brothers, reported victims of "enforced disappearance" since Feb. 14, 2006, are seeking the protective custody of the Supreme Court.

The high court earlier issued an order barring agents of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) or paramilitary groups from harassing the brothers.

The Manalos are currently in hiding, assisted by lawyers and human rights groups. They are afraid military or paramilitary men will try to kidnap them again.

Sunga said the video will be attached to their petitioner's reply to the comment made by the Office of the Solicitor General.

Aside from a protective order, Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (Pahra) secretary general Renato Mabunga said the Manalos will also ask for a special commission to investigate the alleged kidnapping.

In his interview with FLAG lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno, Raymond said he and his brother were abducted by armed men who claimed to be "vigilantes."

After being blindfolded and taken to an unknown place, Raymond said their torturers demanded that they admit to killing a certain Daniel Mendoza, supposedly the father of a Cafgu (Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit) member.

"*Pilit kaming pinapaamin. Pinagbibintangan kami ang pumatay... at na miyembro kami ng* NPA (They were forcing us to confess. They were accusing us of being the killers...and that we were members of the NPA, the communist New People's Army)," he said.

Raymond also claimed to have met Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan who reportedly asked him about his family.

"Sabi niya sabihin ko sa mga magulang ko na huwag na raw umattend sa rally at *hearing* ng mga maka-karapatan (He told me to tell my parents not to attend hearings of human rights advocates)," recalled Raymond.

Palparan has since retired from the military and has reportedly been offered a job in Malacañang Palace.

The military, said Raymond, was actually after his brothers Rolando and Crisanto, who were suspected to be members of the NPA.

"*Bubuhayin kami para magbabalik-loob ang mga kapatid namin* (They would keep us alive so our brothers would return to the fold)," said Raymond on the reason they were not killed, unlike other victims of enforced disappearances.

He added that during his first escape attempt (he was recaptured), he learned that he was being kept at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija. He said they were moved to various camps. At one camp, he said he saw 18 other detainees also being tortured—among them two University of the Philippines coeds Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño.

Wilma Tizon, secretary general of the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances (FIND), called on the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to conduct a speedy and independent investigation into the Manalo case, and conduct an ocular inspection at Fort Magsaysay.

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Barangay, SK bets may file candidacies

By Beverly T. Natividad

CANDIDATES FOR THE BARANGAY AND Sangguniang Kabataan elections next month may start filing their certificates of candidacy on Friday, the Commission on Elections announced yesterday.

In a statement, the Comelec said it would accept certificates of candidacy between Sept. 14 and 19, as provided for by Comelec Resolution No. 8297.

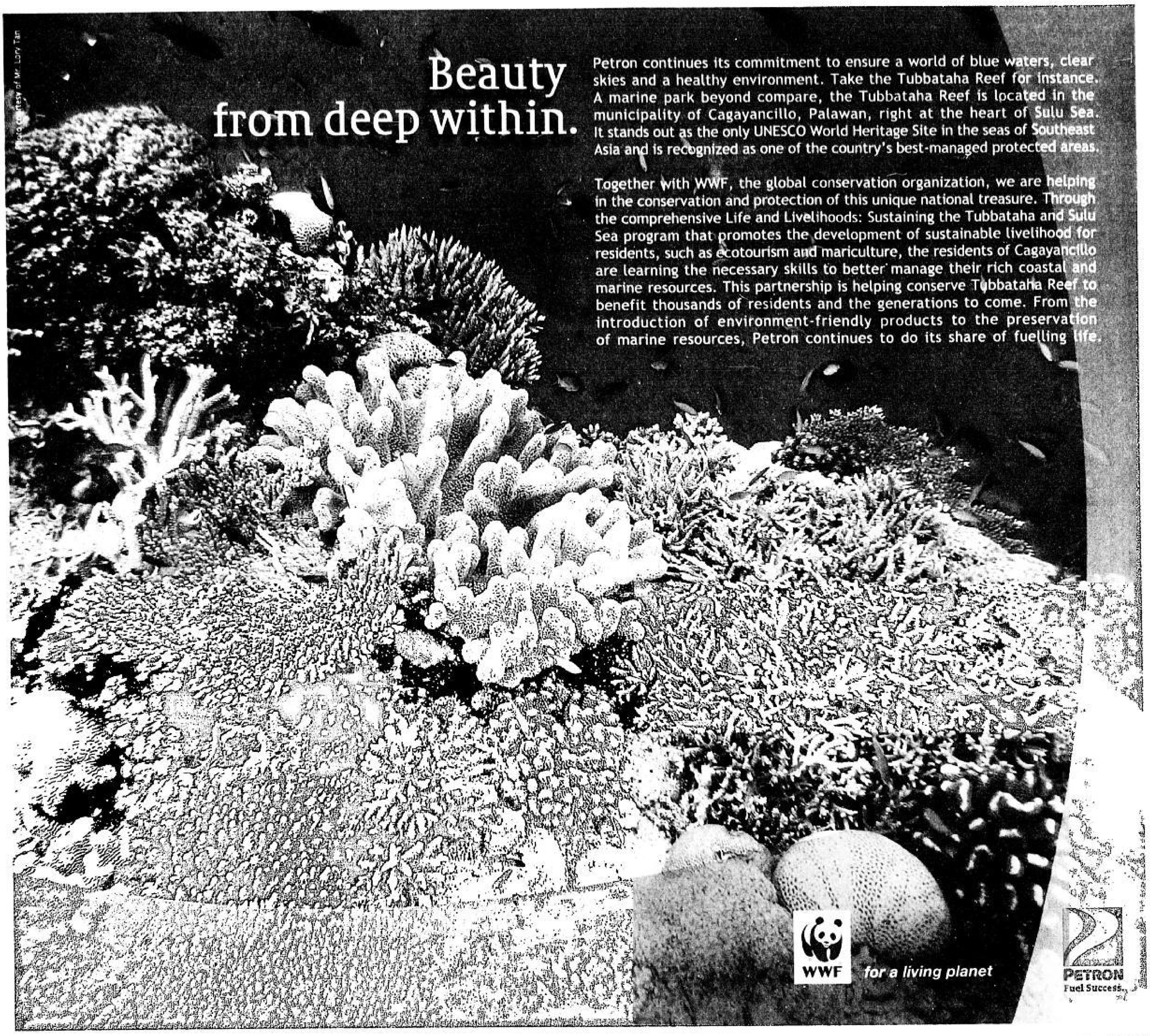
The Comelec said that those wishing to run for *punong* barangay (village chair), barangay *kagawad* (councilor), SK (youth) chair and SK kagawad must file their sworn certificates in person or through an authorized representative with their respective city or municipal election officers.

Not doing so would mean disqualification, the Comelec said.

"No certificate of candidacy shall be filed or accepted by mail, telegram or facsimile," the poll body said.

The barangay and SK elections are scheduled for Oct. 29. A barangay chair and seven councilors will be elected, as well as one SK chair and seven SK councilors, in every barangay in the country.

The House of Representatives is currently debating a bill that would postpone the barangay and SK polls after it was brought up that holding another election so close to last May's midterm polls would only re-ignite political tensions as well as another round of campaign spending.

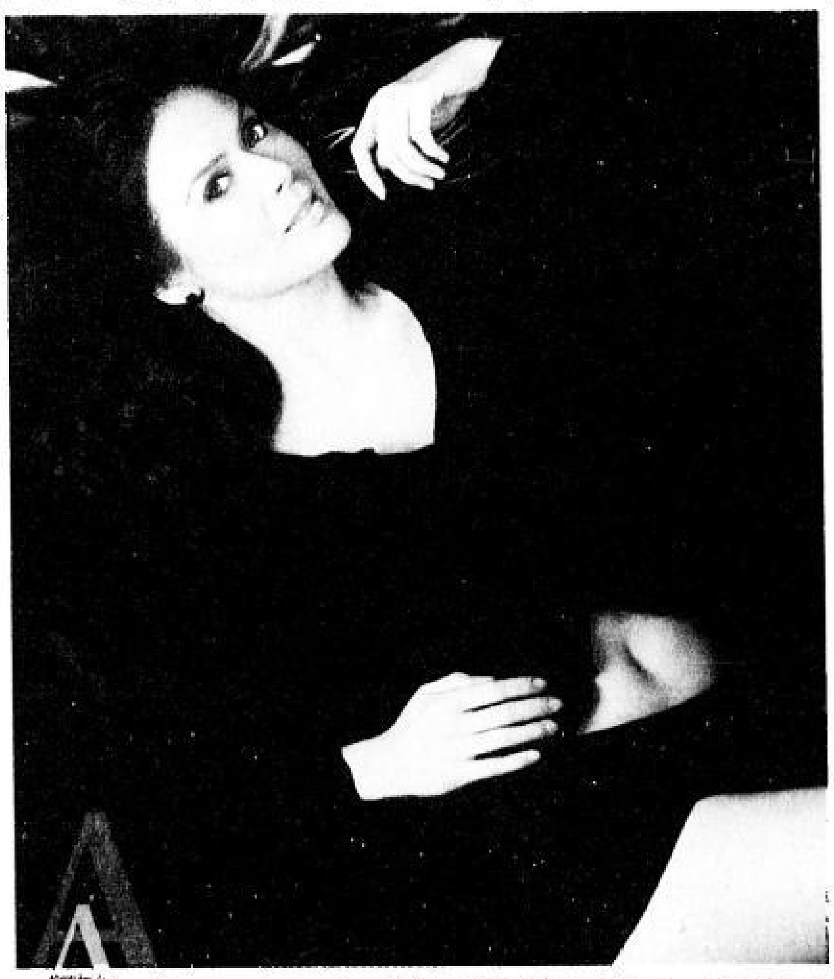


Petron continues its commitment to ensure a world of blue waters, clear skies and a healthy environment. Take the Tubbataha Reef for instance. A marine park beyond compare, the Tubbataha Reef is located in the municipality of Cagayancillo, Palawan, right at the heart of Sulu Sea. It stands out as the only UNESCO World Heritage Site in the seas of Southeast Asia and is recognized as one of the country's best-managed protected areas.

Together with WWF, the global conservation organization, we are helping in the conservation and protection of this unique national treasure. Through the comprehensive Life and Livelihoods: Sustaining the Tubbataha and Sulu Sea program that promotes the development of sustainable livelihood for residents, such as ecotourism and mariculture, the residents of Cagayancillo are learning the necessary skills to better manage their rich coastal and marine resources. This partnership is helping conserve Tubbataha Reef to benefit thousands of residents and the generations to come. From the introduction of environment-friendly products to the preservation of marine resources, Petron continues to do its share of fuelling life.

Printing life.

Dawn Admits: My Husband Has A New *Lover*



After almost a decade of being wife to Congressman Anton Lagdameo, actress Dawn Zulueta has finally gotten the courage to admit the truth about her marriage.

"My husband has a new lover," she bravely discloses.

This new woman in her husband's life has a stunning hourglass figure -- long, sexy legs, a shapely waist, slender arms and a flat tummy. She even looks younger than Dawn was a few years ago.

Who is this new woman? Before a malicious conclusion manages to form itself in your mind, let the truth be known: Her husband's new lover -- is Dawn herself!

After weight struggles, mostly a result of her pregnancy, Dawn has managed to regain her whistle-bait body through religiously undergoing Marie France treatments, watching her diet and living a healthy lifestyle. At one point she reached 146 lbs. and a 40-inch waistline, a far cry from her formerly slim figure.

She reveals, "I went up 40 pounds after giving birth. My waistline was 40? 44? And that was from a 27-inch waistline! Imagine? I mean if you think about it, *magpapa-lipo na lang ako diba?* I actually consulted a doctor about it and was so close to doing it already. But the doctor said, "Dawn, *kung gusto mo mabuntis, wag ka muna magpa-lipo. Kasi sayang.*" She was being honest. That's 'cause if you gain weight again after you have lipo done, the fat comes out in other areas that were not "lipo-ed." So your body isn't proportioned, it's disfigured. *Yun yung may mga* ripples. *Parang longganisa!* Plus, I don't like seeing marks on my body. With lipo, *kahit maliliit,* I still don't like seeing scars. *Pag nagsuot ako ng* bathing suit, *parang halatang may ginawa ako sa* area *na 'to.*"

> *"I think that having not only a sexy figure, but a healthy lifestyle helps in keeping the fire burning in any marriage. Kasi when you take these things for granted, it's like taking your partner for granted."*

"When I started doing Marie France, I told myself, 'Why didn't I think of this before?!'" Dawn recalls. "I started to lose weight even in areas no amount of exercise could treat! Like my saddlebags, cellulites, *ganyan.* They have so many machines! All the treatments are non-surgical and non-invasive so it's safe."

Now at 126 lbs. with a healthier, slimmer body, she is happier, more confident and more energetic. Dawn stresses, however, that she is all for being slim the safe, healthy way. She even admits to loving food, a refreshing divergence from the rampant eating disorders some celebrities fall victim to. "It would be difficult for me to avoid food, because I'm surrounded with a lot of people who love to eat. My own family loves to eat. So it's difficult for me to try to keep everything to a minimum, especially all the rich foods. But that's where discipline comes in."

And her discipline and consistent visits to Marie France have paid off, with her figure as evidence. "I think that having not only a sexy figure, but a healthy lifestyle helps in keeping the fire burning in any marriage," Dawn states. "I know that I look good. So I guess it helps, because it boosts my confidence when it comes to being with my husband. *Siyempre,* he in turn is also happy with the way I look, and I guess he also sees how happy I am with the way I am."

"It even affects your mood," Dawn adds. "It affects everything you do. Now, when my husband wants to go out or do anything, it's easier for me to get up and go because I'll fit into anything. Unlike before, I'd refuse to go out and tell him I had nothing to wear. He'd tell me, 'Ok, I'll buy you something to wear,' but then I'd tell him, 'It's 2 sizes bigger than my original size. *'Wag na lang.*' I'd just get depressed. So that could've posed bigger problems if it kept on happening. Now I know finding out everything about each other and accepting each other is a normal development in any relationship. However, having said that, it's also still important to maintain some kind of mystery and allure. *Kasi* when you take these things for granted, it's like taking your partner for granted. So I think it's important that married couples keep themselves looking good for each other, like how it was when they were still dating. And that goes for the men too!"

As for her husband's "new lover," what is she up to now? "A new baby," Dawn excitedly announces. "Come December, my husband and I are going to work on it. So that's the next big project for me. And you're going to see me gain weight all over again!"

She is not worried, however. "You're going to see me lose it all again too," she promises. "'Cause there's always Marie France!"

Call Marie France today for a FREE consultation at 894-BODY (2639); Cebu (032) 233-7637/39/41; Pampanga (045) 961-2981/961-2991.

PRINT TOWN
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Half of Pinoys happy with RP democracy—survey

ONE OF EVERY TWO ADULT FILIPINOS is satisfied with the way democracy works in the country, according to the latest survey by the Social Weather Stations.

The 54-percent democracy satisfaction rating was the highest since it hit 61 percent in June 1999. In the past eight years since, it has almost always been in the 30s and 40s, exceeding 50 percent only once in March 2002.

The SWS noted that satisfaction with the way democracy works peaked after the presidential elections of 1992 and 1998. It hit 70 percent in October 1992 and again in July 1998, "obviously related to the successful process of the presidential elections of 1992 and 1998," the SWS said in a statement released yesterday.

Satisfaction with democracy was only at 44 percent in June 2004, after that year's presidential election.

The survey, conducted from June 27 to 30, also found that around the same percentage (53 percent) preferred democracy over any other kind of government, while nearly one in every five (19 percent) said that "under some circumstances, an authoritarian government can be preferable to a democratic one."

Meanwhile, 27 percent said that "for people like me, it does not matter whether we have a democratic or a nondemocratic regime."

In four previous SWS national surveys conducted in 2007, the percentage of Filipinos saying "democracy is always preferable to any other kind of government" ranged from 52 to 58 percent.

"This is an increase from 49 percent in September 2006, and is more or less a recovery to [the] levels from 2002 to 2005, when it ranged from 52 to 64 percent," SWS said.

Since February 2007, around 15 to 19 percent have said that "under some circumstances, an authoritarian government can be preferable to a democratic one."

The percentage of respondents with the same opinion ranged from 15 to 26 percent in the period 2002 to 2006.

Those who say it does not matter "whether we have a democratic or a nondemocratic regime" ranged from 25 percent to 28 in the four SWS surveys this year, similar to 28 percent in September 2006 and higher than the 18 to the 22 percent between 2002 and 2005.

By comparison with other Asian countries, using the results of the 2005 Asian Barometer surveys, only 38 percent of Filipinos were satisfied with how democracy worked in the country, trailing Singaporeans (82 percent), Thais (80 percent), Mongolians (64 percent), Indonesians (59 percent), Taiwanese (56 percent) and Koreans (48 percent).

The same survey also found the majority in Thailand (73 percent), Indonesia (64 percent) and Singapore (59 percent) saying they always preferred democracy to any other kind of government. Around half in the Philippines (51 percent) and Taiwan (48 percent), and two-fifths in Korea (43 percent) and Mongolia (39 percent) shared this view at the time.

The Asian Barometer Survey covered topics such as social infrastructure development, economic conditions, life values and satisfactions, social actions, customs and rules, identity, political consciousness and health conditions.

Filipinos' regard for democracy compared favorably with European countries. The results of a Eurobarometer survey conducted in March-May 2006 found that 48 percent of Europeans were satisfied with the way democracy worked in the European Union, with satisfaction ranging from 40 percent to 49 percent in the past 10 years. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

Pinoy nurses lose case filed against NY recruiter

By Jerome Aning

FOR "UTTER LACK OF MERIT," THE PHILIPPINE Overseas and Employment Administration dismissed charges of recruitment violations filed by 26 Filipino health care professionals against the Sentosa Recruitment Agency (SRA) and its mother agency, the New York-based Sentosa Care LLC.

"No regulation on overseas employment was violated by the respondents in the recruitment and deployment of complainants to its principal in the United States," said the decision by POEA administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz dated Sept. 4.

The complainants accused Sentosa of misrepresentation in the recruitment, substitution of contracts, withholding of salaries and violations of regulations in the hiring of overseas workers.

The 26 nurses and physical therapists were recruited from Manila by SRA. Both the recruitment agency and the network of nursing homes to which they were assigned are owned by Ben Philipson, who is chief operating officer and managing partner of the Sentosa group.

The Filipino nurses and PTs claimed they were made to work for facilities different from those provided for in their contracts. Sentosa Care operates 14 nursing facilities in New York, recruiting nurses, physical therapists and caregivers, mostly from the Philippines.

Full disclosure

The complainants walked out of their jobs in April 2006 and were slapped with a $50-million damage suit by Sentosa Care for breach of contract, conspiracy and child endangerment. They pleaded not guilty at their arraignment last March.

Among those who were sued was Elmer Jacinto, a medical doctor who topped the board exams in Manila but opted to go to the US to work as a nurse because of the higher pay.

Last week, the United States justice department dismissed a case filed by the 26 against Sentosa Care for alleged unfair immigration-related employment practices.

In her decision, Baldoz said SRA never deceived the complainants and that in all the advertisements for the jobs in the US, there was full disclosure of the corporate relationship between SRA and Sentosa Care LLC, as well as their affiliated companies, all belonging to the Sentosa Care Group.

On the issue that the nurses were made to work not as direct hires but as agency employees, Baldoz said the nurses were agency hires, not direct hires, as "SRA is the local agency of the direct foreign principal which is Sentosa Care and its affiliated companies."

On the issue of contract substitution or alteration, the complainants claimed that they were made to work for another employer. But the POEA found that they were actually transferred to other affiliated nursing facilities under the Sentosa Care Group, and that this was covered by the recruitment agreements that they signed.

Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 2 ISSUE, a photo caption on Page A17 of the Across the Nation section misstated the place where the photograph of fish pens was taken. The photo was taken in Obando, Bulacan—not Candaba, Pampanga.

* * *

IN THE SEPT. 8 ISSUE, a Sports article on Page A27—"Pacquiao sharpens powerful right hook"—misstated the boxing title currently held by Manny Pacquiao. He is the World Boxing Council champion in the international super featherweight—not super flyweight—division.

* * *

IN THE SEPT. 9 ISSUE, the front-page banner story—"GMA, Bush meet, finally"—misstated the total cost of the controversial National Broadband Network contract. The contract is worth $329 million—not P330 million.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a front-page article—"Detained, Erap freed to make history, build legacy"—misspelled the surname of a Filipino boxing icon. The boxer is Manny Pacquiao—not Paquiao.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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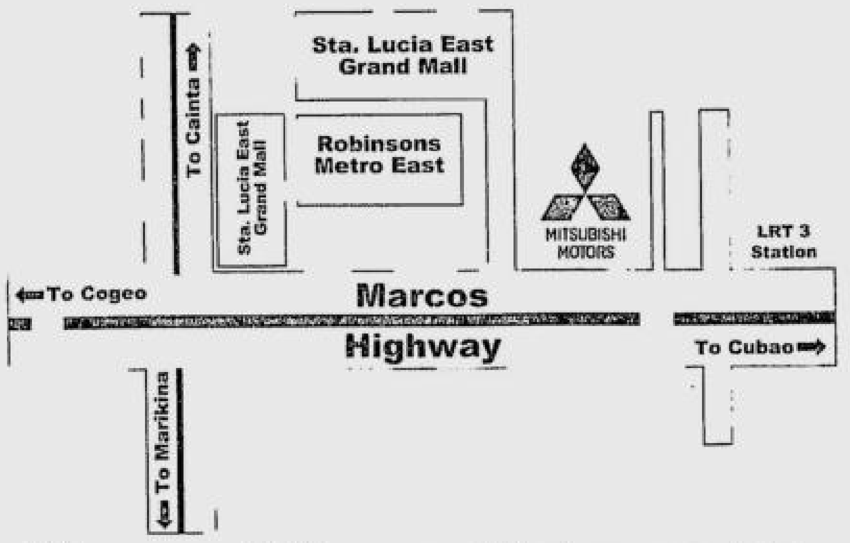

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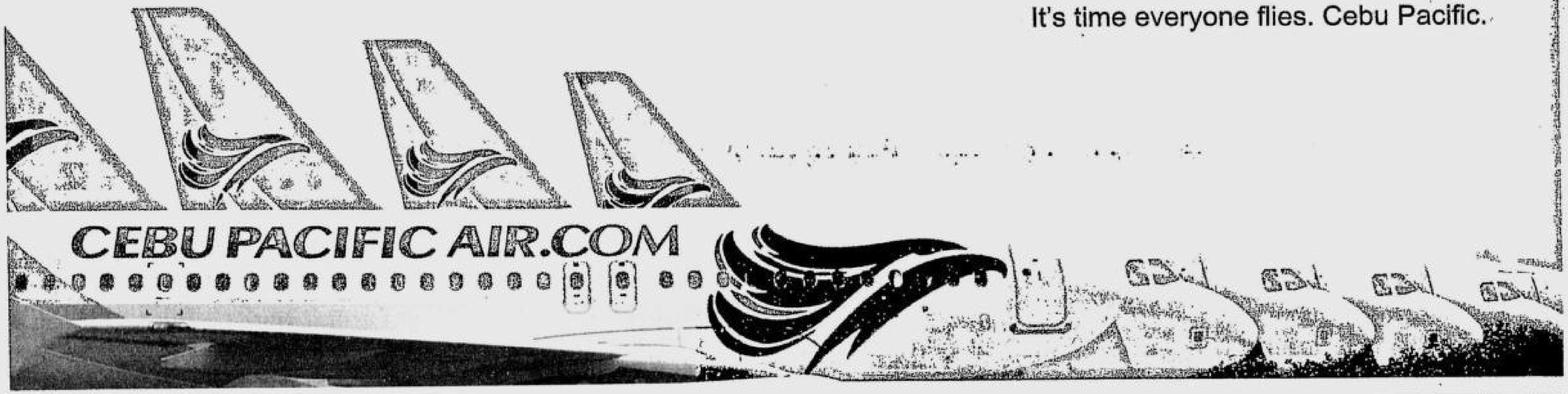

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2ND LT. JOSE EUGENIO ECLAVIA gets a warm welcome from his wife, Hazel, upon arrival at Navy headquarters in Manila after nine years of fighting insurgents in Mindanao and Palawan. In foreground is their son Jose Rubender, 4. PHOTO BY REM ZAMORA

Mindanao Marines retrain in Manila

TWO HUNDRED SOLDIERS FROM Marine Battalion Landing Team 10 (MBLT 10) arrived yesterday at Navy Headquarters in Manila to begin a six-month retraining program, and to refurbish their weapons and equipment.

MBLT 10 was given a hero's welcome by the Navy vice chief, Rear Admiral Amable Tolentino, who also conferred awards on 10 outstanding soldiers from the contingent.

The MBLT 10 commander, Marine Lt. Col. Ramon Mabalot Jr., Capt. Ismael Chua, Technical Sgt. Neil Demonteverde and Staff Sgt. Raquel Almojuela were awarded the Bronze Cross "for acts of heroism involving the risk of life during an operation that recovered several rounds of live ammunition and firearms from communist-terrorist groups in Palawan," a statement from the Navy said.

Staff Sergeants Reccis Telmo and Nilson Tibunsay and Cpl. Dexter Balmore received the Military Merit Medal.

First Lt. Miguel Perez, Pfc. Angelo Abeto and Pfc. Sabino Aragon were awarded the Military Commendation Medal for the recovery of two homemade shotguns, drug paraphernalia, communication equipment, live ammunition and subversive documents at the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The MBLT 10 has been deployed in southern Mindanao and Palawan for the past nine years, fighting extremist groups and insurgents, the Navy said.

The contingent will be replaced by the 9th MBLT, which saw action in the latest military offensive against the Abu Sayyaf extremist group in Basilan, said Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan, Marine Corps public information officer.

A Marine battalion usually undergoes retraining every six or seven years, Caculitan said.

In the 2000 campaign in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte, MBLT 10 captured the Camp Bilal complex in Munal, at the time the largest satellite camp of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which was fortified by 600 fully armed insurgents.

It also led in the clearing operations that reopened the Narciso Ramos Highway.

MBLT 10 also led several campaigns against the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group, one of which led to the neutralization of a notorious Abu Sayyaf leader and the eventual release of Fr. Cirilo Nacorda.

In Patikul, Sulu, three years ago, MBLT 10 led several campaigns against Abu Sayyaf leader Radullan Sahiron, who was charged with kidnapping three Indonesians and four Jehovah's Witnesses missionaries.

The MBLT 10 was reassigned to Palawan last year where it engaged several communist groups, aside from spearheading numerous community development projects with local government agencies.

Formerly the MBLT 11, the MBLT 10 was activated in 1990 and became the reserve unit of the Philippine Marines in Metro Manila against destabilization groups during the term of President Corazon Aquino.

It chalked up its first major achievement that year when it quashed an uprising by the then governor of Cagayan, Rodolfo Aguinaldo. But former Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo was killed in the stand-off. *Nikko Dizon*

Air Force offers pilots incentives to remain

By Tarra Quismundo

IT MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO MATCH THE compensation offered by commercial airlines, but the Philippine Air Force (PAF) is not about to surrender and give up its pilots without a fight.

PAF chief Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino said the Air Force has been drawing up programs to offer "nonquantifiable incentives" to military pilots in a bid to retain PAF-trained flyers amid enticing offers from commercial airlines.

Recognizing how working for civilian aviation can be attractive to military pilots, Tolentino said the PAF was thinking of other ways to compensate its pilots on top of their regular salaries.

"Serving [commercial] airlines is very lucrative. When it comes to monetary benefits, we can't match that. But what we can do is compensate them in other aspects, what we call nonquantifiable incentives like offering them housing, schooling and car loans, if possible," he said.

The departure of military pilots for commercial service has been a problem for the Air Force whose trained pilots are known to leave after the obligatory eight years of service in order to work for commercial airlines.

The PAF last year brought court-martial proceedings against some of its pilots for going Awol (absent without leave) to train as commercial pilots.

Others leave even before fulfilling the eight-year service requirement, opting to reimburse the PAF for the remainder of their term, Tolentino said.

"I do not have control over them if they want to leave, as long as they go out properly... But it's not the pilots per se that is the problem, it's the experience that they have," said the PAF chief.

"Those who leave are the ones trained to be instructor pilots," he said.

Among the schemes being developed is to offer on-base housing for pilots and giving them loans through a tie-up with the Armed Forces financing systems.

The Air Force has 947 pilots, half of whom are in the active service, flying the PAF's modest fleet of fixed-wing planes and helicopters.

The PAF is set to acquire new helicopters, trainer aircraft and utility planes soon. It has opened for bidding the procurement of new utility choppers and planes to boost its roster of UH-1H choppers and N22-C Nomads.

New SF-260 trainer aircraft, made by Italian aircraft maker Aermachhi, are expected to be delivered within the year, along with MG-530 helicopters, which are night-capable gun ships manufactured by McDonnell Douglas.

Customs foils onion smuggle try

TWO SHIPMENTS OF ONIONS VALUED AT over P6.2 million were seized by agents of the Bureau of Customs at the Port of Manila in the agency's intensified drive against smuggling.

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service director Jairus Paguntalan said the shipments, consigned to AGR Trading and Golden Shine Enterprises, were confiscated by CIIS operatives in separate operations after both shipments were found to have been misdeclared as garlic.

AGR Trading's shipment was seized on Saturday from the company's warehouse in Sta. Maria, Bulacan, following a tip that the firm had failed to obtain an import permit from the Bureau of Plant Industry, Paguntalan said.

He said the cargo, which arrived in Manila last week in two 40-foot containers, was declared by its importer to be garlic. The Port of Manila then released the P3.12-million shipment.

The Golden Shine Enterprises shipment was seized on Monday at the Manila port after it was found to also contain onions aside from garlic.

Paguntalan said the importer committed a "gross misdeclaration" and violated Section 2530 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

School kids to be given anticorruption lessons

By Jerry E. Esplanada

STRESSING THE NEED TO INCULCATE proper values in the young, the Department of Education has integrated antigraft and corruption lessons into the education curriculum.

The DepEd has distributed more than 200,000 copies of the new Graft and Corruption Prevention Education Teaching Exemplars or GCPETE to over 44,400 elementary and secondary schools nationwide.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus yesterday said the GCPETE project "is one of the thrusts" of the DepEd and reiterated the department's strong stand against all forms of graft and corruption.

The exemplars, which consist of 52 teaching modules, will complement the DepEd's strong antigraft and corruption measures, according to Lapus.

The GCPETE, a joint project of the DepEd and the Office of the Ombudsman, is funded by the European Union and the United States Agency for International Development.

The modules aim to "instill in our students the value of honesty, integrity, professionalism and simple living with the hope that these can help build a more honest, transparent and accountable government."

"Young students must be taught the values of honesty and integrity so that they can develop a consciousness and appreciation of graft and corruption prevention," Lapus told the INQUIRER.

The DepEd chief formally launched the program early this year at the P. Bernardo Elementary School in Quezon City.

"As we look at ways of solving the many social woes that plague our country, we recognize the important role of education in transforming our students to become true assets, instead of liabilities, in our quest for nation-building," Lapus said.

He cited several cases of honesty involving young school children, like 12-year-old Ma. Cristina Bugayong who returned P300,000 to its rightful owner in January 2006, and five elementary and high school students from Lucena City who returned in October 2006 a wallet containing P40,000 to its owner.

"Their examples set the standard for integrity among us Filipinos. And this high standard must be applied at the DepEd since it is our responsibility to inculcate these values among our young," Lapus said.

Meanwhile, Ligaya Monato, Olongapo City division superintendent, has disputed Lapus' claim that her assistant was placed under a 90-day preventive suspension for allegedly selling teaching positions.

Ligaya Monato, Olongapo division superintendent, told the INQUIRER that they had yet to receive the DepEd order suspending Naomi Arzadon.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 12, 2007
23rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Col 3:1-11
Gospel:	Luke 6:20-26

Lifting up his eyes to his disciples, Jesus said:

"Fortunate are you who are poor, the kingdom of God is yours.

Fortunate are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Fortunate are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Fortunate are you when people hate you, when they reject you and insult you and number you among criminals, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. Remember that is how the ancestors of this people treated the prophets.

But alas for you who have wealth, for you have been comforted now.

Alas for you who are full, for you will go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

Alas for you when people speak well of you, for that is how the ancestors of these people treated the false prophets."

Commentary

Paul's letters are all written in the plural and we have a tendency to read them as if they come to us personally, rather than as a community of believers being called to live together and be accountable to each other. We are in Christ's company-those we break the bread of life and the word of truth with daily-and we are hidden with Christ in God. We are to daily live our baptismal promises and pragmatically root out evil, sin, injustice, and violence in our lives, and we are to make sure that we do not hinder others in living their baptismal vows. We are one in God, all of us-every nationality, language, culture, gender, economic group, even religious persuasion-and we are to be formed anew in the image of the one who created us all.

Our program of practice and being formed anew: to become poor, to hunger and thirst for justice and holiness (they are the same word), to stand for and be compassionate with those who are suffering, and to rejoice if we are honored with persecution for the sake of the gospel and the Son of Man. And we are to be careful not to be found among the rich and insensitive, those who are full and do not share, those who live without care of the pain of others, and those who court prophets who tell you what you want to hear. Are we as Church among the blessed or have we become like those who think 'you can have it all'?

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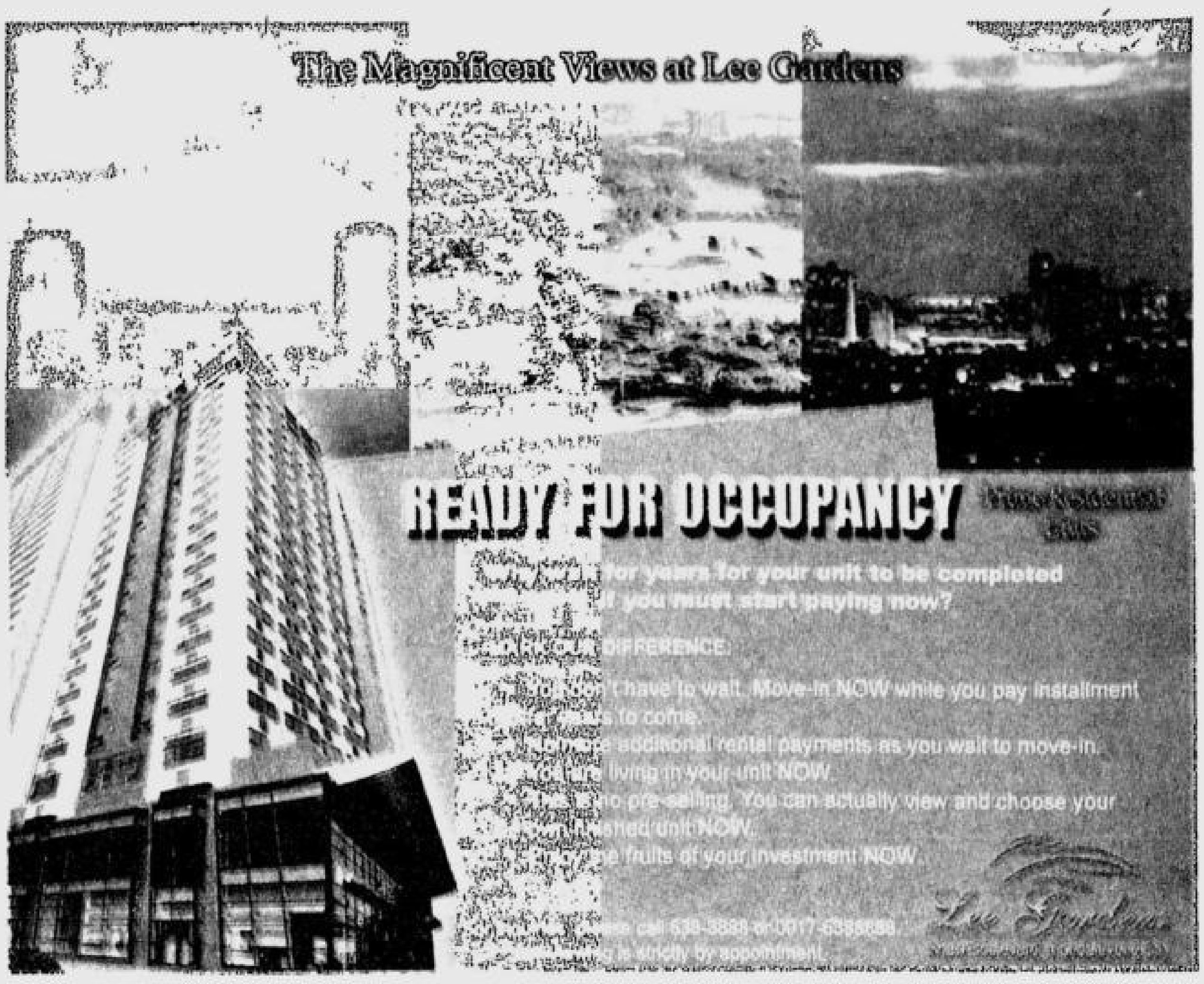
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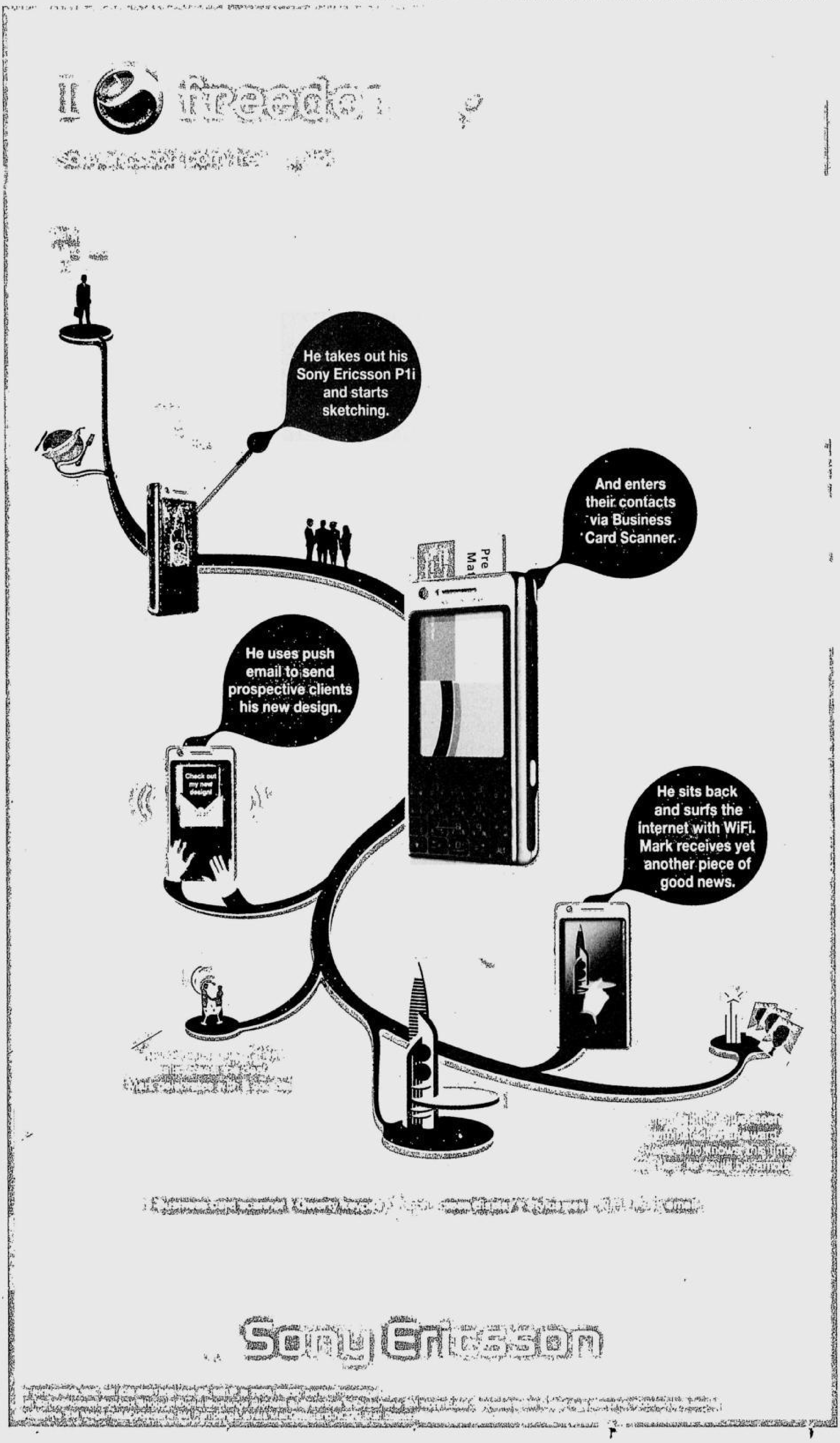
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And enters their contacts via Business Card Scanner.
He uses push email to send prospective clients his new design.
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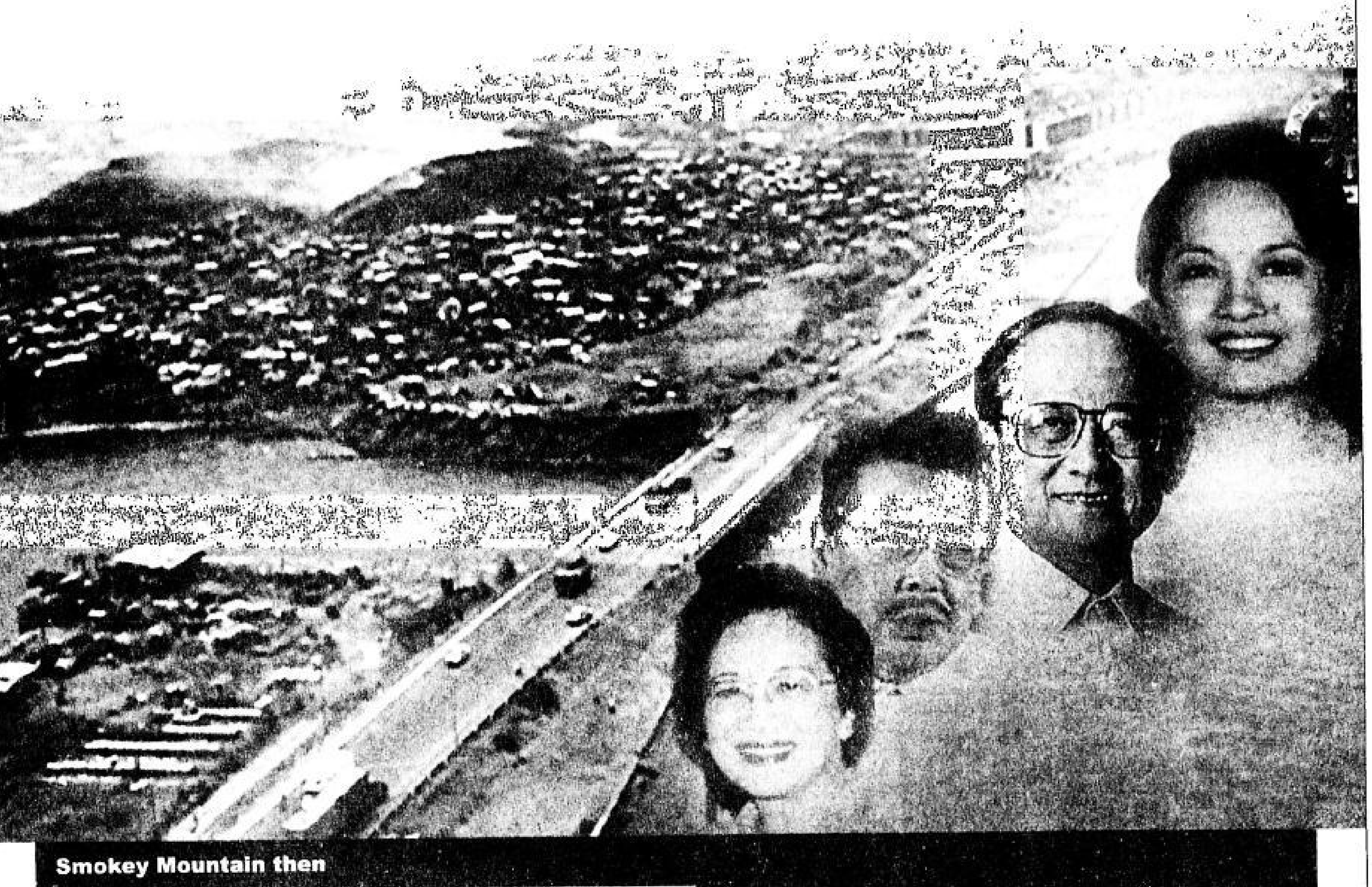
He sits back and surfs the internet with WiFi. Mark receives yet another piece of good news.
Sony Ericsson

‘Salamat sa Desisyon ng Korte Suprema 13-0’



Smokey Mountain then

Four Philippine Presidents have put in their mark on the Smokey Mountain Reclamation and Development Project (SMRDP).

All poured in essential support needed during their term to provide decent homes to a community of garbage dumpsite scavengers and renew the environment in the Tondo foreshore land, known as the Smokey Mountain.

With the Smokey Mountain etched fresh in the world’s mind as symbol of urban decay, former President Cory Aquino initiated in 1988 a comprehensive waste management plan for Metro Manila, with the SMRDP as one of the resultant projects.

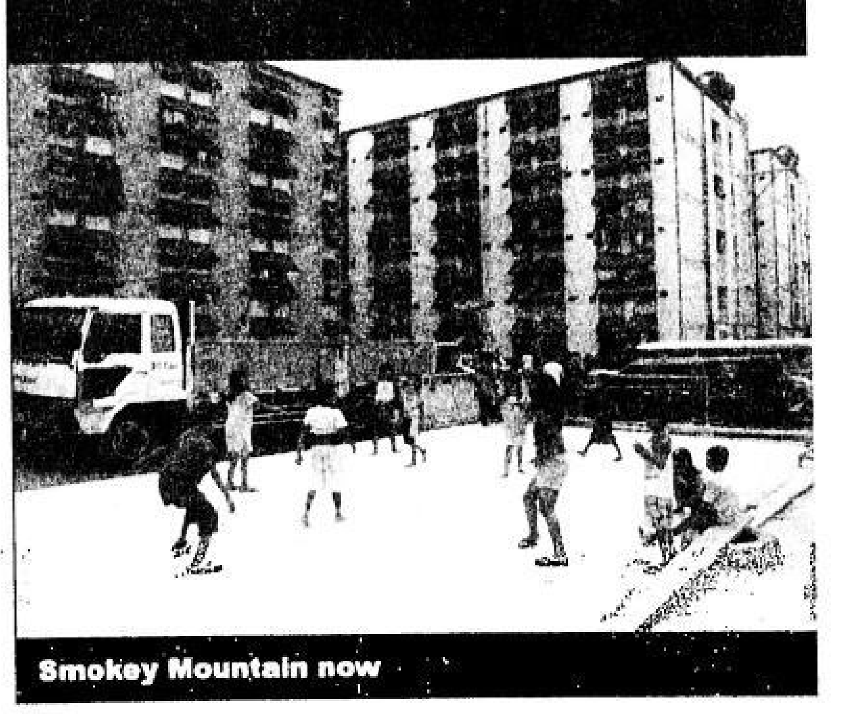
Former President Fidel V. Ramos firmed up the joint venture agreement covering the project and set forth the 79-hectare reclamation of foreshore land as its enabling component.

With work in progress, former President Joseph Estrada undertook the SMRDP as one of his administration’s flagship programs for the poor and for environment management.

Then, in 2003, H. E. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo turned over to 2,520 SMRDP beneficiary-families their housing units in 21 medium-rise residential buildings.

On Aug 15, 2007, the Supreme Court declared the legality of the Smokey Mountain Reclamation and Development Project (SMRDP). Thirteen High Court justices voted on its validity while two other justices inhibited themselves from voting.

> Smokey Mountain rule reopens fresh prospects for new wealth and relieving miseries of the poor --*FVR*

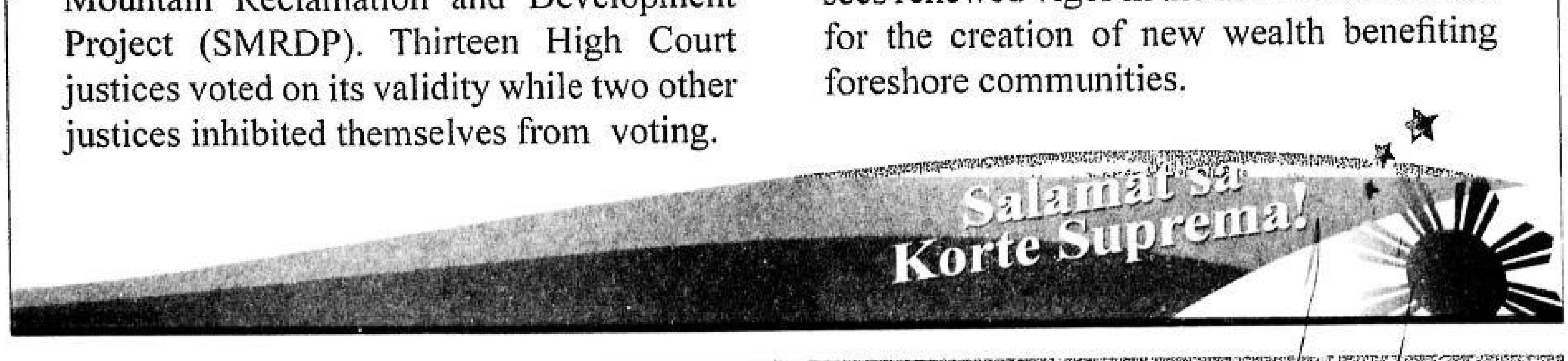


Smokey Mountain now

In a column by former President Ramos, dated Aug. 26, 2007 and which appeared in the Manila Bulletin, he hails the High Court decision and declares:

“Fresh prospects to create new wealth – on the part of both Government and the private sector – have just been reopened which can attract a big wave of investments and generate hundreds of thousands of jobs for indigent Filipinos.”

He sees the decision as a judicial move that spurs the cleaning up of more “Smokey Mountains” in the Philippines. Calling for more legislation on reclamation, he also sees renewed vigor in the use of reclamation for the creation of new wealth benefiting foreshore communities.


Salamat sa Korte Suprema!

Prosecute poachers, conservation group urges

By TJ Burgonio

THE WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF) is alarmed over the rising incidence of poaching in Mindanao waters by Chinese fishermen, and wants the government to exercise firm resolve in pursuing cases against the poachers.

The authorities rounded up 19 Chinese fishermen after an inspection of their boat, moored between two islands in the Sulu archipelago, led to the discovery of rows of dead turtles.

The government agents found 50 dried and 58 freshly-gutted turtles, and 28 living turtles on the unmarked vessel. Most of them were green sea turtles, internationally classified as endangered species, WWF said.

The final tally showed that 200 adult turtles and 10,000 eggs were killed. A pair of live pelagic thresher sharks, classified as vulnerable, were also found in the boat’s holding tanks, the conservation group said.

The boat and crew were escorted to Bongao, capital of Tawi-Tawi, where they were charged with violation of the Philippine Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act.

“This is by no means the first time that foreign nationals encroached upon Philippine waters to plunder our nation’s rich but dwindling marine resources,” said WWF Tawi-Tawi project manager Filemon Romero in a statement.

The authorities arrested the Chinese crew of the M/V Hoi Wan fishing vessel after it was caught poaching Napoleon wrasse off Tubbataha Reef in December 2006. The case remains pending, according to the conservation group.

Two months earlier, 24 Chinese fishermen aboard the M/V Kwok Wai Ming were caught poaching off Mangsee island in Palawan. The prosecutors initially dismissed the case, but later reversed themselves, it said.

Great sign

“This is a great sign. While we are not lacking for environmental laws, enforcement and political will to see these cases through, it leaves much to be desired. WWF is hopeful that the accused finally get what’s due them,” Romero said.

Only one case—the arrest of 17 Chinese poachers caught with 54 dead turtles—has led to a conviction, but they were pardoned after paying fines “in order not to strain relations between the Philippines and China,” according to WWF.

“WWF hopes that the Philippine government will finally have the resolve to dispense justice against foreign poachers who disregard both local and international laws,” it said.

For the past nine years, more than 900 foreigners, including at least 660 from China, have been arrested and charged with poaching in the waters of Palawan.

WWF said it would closely monitor this latest case to ensure that justice is served.

‘You’ve just won UK lottery—not!’

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN MANILA HAS warned Filipinos about an Internet lottery scam perpetrated via e-mail and purporting to be part of the national lottery in the United Kingdom.

The embassy issued the warning after receiving numerous inquiries from people in the Philippines who had received an e-mail telling them they had won a very large sum of money.

“Recipients of such e-mails should be very careful. They are usually followed by another e-mail asking for a large sum of money (usually several hundred pounds) in payment of a fee or other charge. This is a scam designed to get your money,” the embassy said.

The e-mail usually asks a supposed winner for his credit card number so they could process a $15 fee.

The scheme is also being done by post, with copies of the supposed raffle entries attached, the embassy said.

Reports on Internet lottery scams say the scam is basically a “phishing” expedition.

This means that if a recipient responds to the e-mail, the perpetrators of the scam send them further messages or even contact them by phone in an attempt to draw them deeper into the scam.

Most of the time, recipients are asked to provide banking details, plenty of personal information, and even copies of driver’s licenses and passports.

Some of the lottery scams have been identified as Megafortune Lottery, Utility Trust Agency, Real Exchange Lotto Promo, Twingate Email Lotto International Programme, Mega Lottery International, World Wide International Stake Lottery, Fortune International Lottery, El Gordo Spanish Sweepstake and Sunsweetwin Promo Lottery.

Naia ready for new readable passports

By Tarra Quismundo

IMMIGRATION COUNTERS AT the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) are almost ready for the country's shift to machine-readable passports (MRPs) which will speed up the processing of departing and arriving passengers, the airport's immigration chief said yesterday.

Airport immigration supervisor Ferdinand Sampol said yesterday that Bureau of Immigration officers at Naia terminals were only awaiting a few more technical upgrades.

"We are actually ready because our immigration office has been serving all nationalities, and most of them already carry machine-readable passports. So we welcome this development because this will allow us to process Filipinos faster," said Sampol.

The Department of Foreign Affairs recently announced that Filipino citizens renewing their passports may avail themselves of the maroon MRP by Sept. 17. First-time applicants will have to settle for the manually read green passports for the meantime.

With the Philippines using MRPs like most countries in the world, Sampol said the processing time for passport holders may be cut by "give or take 15 seconds." He said processing of the manually read green passports took 45 seconds on the average.

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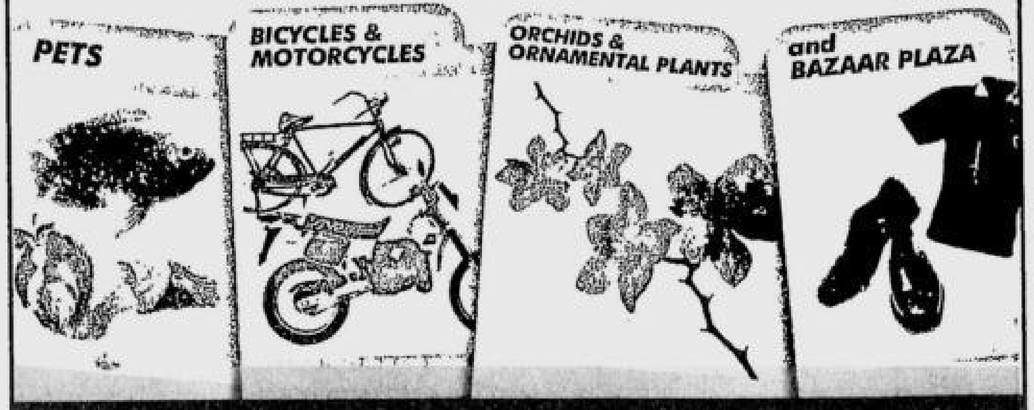


2 marriages of convenience lead to arrest

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Tarra Quismundo

FOR TWO INDIAN NATIONALS, THEIR marriages were not exactly made in heaven.

Operatives of the Bureau of Immigration yesterday arrested Pawan Kumar, 32, and Bhattal Kaur Singh, 22, for marrying Filipino women in order to acquire resident status in the country.

Kumar and Singh were both nabbed in their homes in La Loma, Quezon City, said Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan.

Libanan, who issued the mission order, said Kumar was the subject of a deportation complaint filed by former BI associate commissioner Orlando Dizon.

"The two Indians will both undergo deportation proceedings for being undesirable aliens as they acquired resident visas by means of fraud and misrepresentation," Libanan said.

The immigration chief added: "We are warning other foreigners not to contract a 'marriage of convenience' to acquire legal residence here as their visas can be cancelled at anytime and they will be arrested and deported."

According to BI technical assistant for intelligence Victor Boco, it was Dizon who informed Libanan of Kumar's case.

Already married

Dizon said the BI had granted Kumar a temporary resident visa by reason of his supposed marriage to Mary Jane Uson, a Filipino.

The former BI official pointed out that Kumar was already married to an Indian woman named Jaswinder Kaur, who arrived in the country on July 5, 2006.

"Kumar and Uson's marriage certificate may either be one of convenience or an utter falsity," Dizon said.

As for Singh, Boco said it was unusual that the Indian national had immediately acquired a five-year temporary visa although he arrived in the country only in March.

"This means that he met and married his Filipino wife in such a short time," Boco said.

Investigators were also verifying the authenticity of the entry visa that was stamped on Singh's passport.

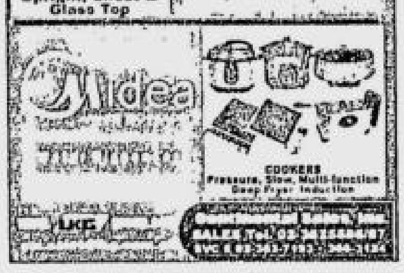
Meanwhile, Kenji Fukuda, a 62-year-old Japanese citizen, was arrested Monday night after hiding for an hour in the toilet of Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2.

Naia immigration supervisor Ferdinand Sampol said Fukuda, whose name was on the BI blacklist, had just arrived from Jakarta, Indonesia, via Philippine Airlines flight PR-504 when he allegedly tried to elude immigration officers.

BI operatives had been on standby at the terminal awaiting the arrival of Fukuda, who was deported from the Philippines last year but managed to continue flying in and out of Manila.

"There was one person from the flight [from Jakarta] who did not pass through the immigration counter. We learned that it was him and our agents looked for him," Sampol said.

Fukuda was found hiding in the men's room in the arrival area an hour later.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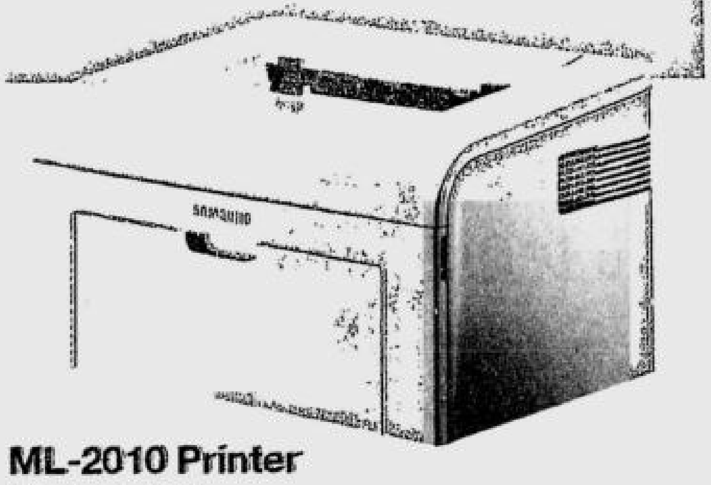

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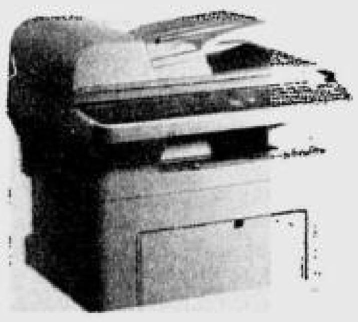

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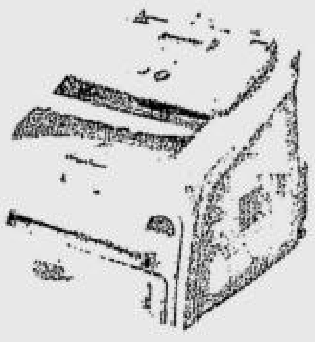

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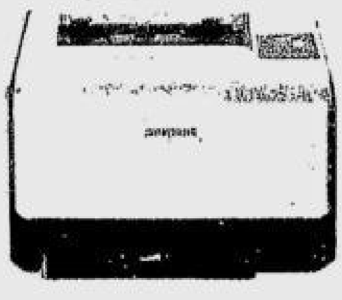

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Remember JR? She tried to see 'papa' Erap but...

By Nancy Carvajal

"HE WILL BE ACQUITTED BECAUSE the charges against my papa were exaggerated," said Josephine Rose "JR" Dungca Estrada.

Although she has not been recognized by former President Joseph Estrada as his daughter, JR said she always prays for her father's acquittal.

JR hit the news in 1999 when her mother, Rose Dungca, bared her relationship with Estrada who was at the time still in office.

Estrada, through his spokesperson then, Jerry Barican, issued a denial. He said the 17-year-old beauty queen from Caloocan City was not his daughter.

Hurt by denial

"I admit I have not totally forgotten how he hurt me with his denials, but I pray every day for his acquittal," JR told the INQUIRER yesterday in a restaurant near the former President's rest house in Tanay.

She said she kept herself updated on the plunder case by reading newspapers and watching television.

JR, now 26 and married to an Iranian, Ahmed Fard, tried to visit the former President yesterday. She also brought along her 8-month-old baby, Reza, but failed to see Estrada.

It was her second attempt to see him—the first time was in 2004.

"I was told I could not enter because I was not on the list of his immediate family," JR said, trying not to cry when she received the news.

She eventually broke into tears, after hearing Estrada's secretary tell Steve Dailisan of GMA 7 why she was not allowed by the police guards to enter the rest house.

Wrong timing

The 5-foot-6-inch former beauty queen who "has the eyes of the Ejercitos" said: "I just wanted to wish him well before the verdict. Maybe my timing was wrong."

She said she hoped she would be given a chance to straighten things out with the former President whom she admitted she had hurt in the past.

"In the past, I said hurtful things against him, to get back at him for denying [I am his daughter]. I was hurt, but now, I hope I'd have a chance to see him, if not as a daughter, perhaps as a fan," JR said.

She said she wanted to see her father before the Sandiganbayan released its verdict, not to get attention but to show her support.

Licensed engineer

"I'm comfortable with my life now, I finished college without support from my father and I accomplished something for myself, but I feel it's not complete," said JR, now a licensed civil engineer working for a construction company at Ortigas Center.

"I want closure. I want to patch things up with my papa and I feel now is the right time to do it," she added.

JR said there had been offers for her to star in a movie after she came out with her story but she turned them all down because it was not what she wanted.

"I can no longer be accused of trying to capitalize on my being a daughter of the President," she said.

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3 justices hold Estrada's fate in their hands, under tight security

From page A1

that there were no threats against them.

De Castro and Villaruz, a former director of the Securities and Exchange Commission, are potential candidates for Supreme Court seats, one of which will be vacant next month when Associate Justice Cancio Garcia retires.

The third magistrate, Peralta, has been touted as the "plunder judge."

He made headlines six years ago when he sentenced Dominga Manalili, a cashier at the Bureau of Internal Revenue, to two life terms for economic plunder—the first such conviction since plunder was established as a crime in 1991.

Manalili was found guilty of diverting more than P260 million in withholding tax payments into two bank accounts from 1996 to 1997, which she later withdrew.

Urieta withheld details about the security measures for the three justices and just said they were "very well secured."

GMA appointees

Two of the three magistrates were appointees of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The lone exception is De Castro, who was appointed to the antigraft court a decade ago by then President Fidel Ramos.

Peralta was appointed to the Sandiganbayan in July 2002.

Currently a senior member of the Second Division, Villaruz was appointed to the Sandiganbayan on Oct. 8, 2001—six months after the Ombudsman filed the plunder and perjury cases against Estrada, his son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, Charlie "Atong" Ang and lawyer Edward Serapio.

Six other accused remain at large.

Unanimous vote needed

The Sandiganbayan has a total of 15 justices distributed over five divisions. It tries criminal and civil cases involving graft and corrupt practices committed by public officers and employees.

Three justices comprise each division.

Under the rules, a unanimous vote of the three justices is needed to reach a verdict. Failing that, the division can get two more justices from another division and constitute themselves into a five-member panel to break the stalemate.

In that setup, only a majority vote is needed to reach a verdict.

7 justices in all

Besides being the antigraft court's presiding judge, De Castro is also the concurrent chair of the First Division, where Peralta sits as a member.

ALL EYES on the three justices of the antigraft court's special division that brings the first-ever case against a former President to its conclusion today. From left, Justices Francisco H. Villaruz Jr., Teresita J. Leonardo-De Castro and Diosdado M. Paralta. INQUIRER PHOTO

Altogether, seven justices, two ombudsmen, two sets of prosecution and defense lawyers handled the Estrada case during its six-year run.

Of the seven justices, it was only De Castro who witnessed the entire proceedings, being part of the original Third Division which handled the trial when it started in April 2001.

De Castro served for six years as a senior state counsel and chief of the legal staff of the Department of Justice before moving up to the Sandiganbayan.

The Third Division was then chaired by Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy, with De Castro and Associate Justice Ricardo Ilarde as members.

The need to create a special court arose when the Third Division lost two of its three magistrates.

The Special Division was created in January 2002 with Justice Minita Chico-Nazario as chair and Associate Justices Edilberto Sandoval and De Castro as members.

Nazario assumed the post of presiding justice in 2001 following the resignation of the late Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena.

With Nazario's elevation to the Supreme Court in 2004, Sandoval became chair of the special court with Villaruz as a member.

Prosecution team

De Castro became the Special Division chair after Sandoval withdrew from the special court.

The first batch of prosecutors in the Estrada trial was headed by former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto. The others included Special Prosecutor Leonardo Tamayo, Deputy Special Prosecutor Robert Kallos, Director Raymundo Olaguer, prosecutors Antonio Manzano, Humphrey Monteroso and John Turalba.

When Tamayo retired, then Social Welfare Undersecretary Dennis Villa-Ignacio and Health Undersecretary Alex Padilla joined the prosecution panel.

Villa-Ignacio later became the special prosecutor.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno, Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Richard Fadullon, Prosecutor Perfecto Lawrence Chua Cheng V and Directors Pilarita Lapitan and Elvira Chua later made up the second batch.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez is also part of the prosecution panel but has not appeared in court since her appointment as Ombudsman.

Highpowered defense lawyers

High-powered lawyers make up Estrada's defense team.

They include former Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, former Manila Prosecutor Jose Flaminiano and son Jay, Raymond Fortun, Cleofe Villar-Verzola and Anna Liza Logan.

Retired Supreme Court Justice Serafin Cuevas, UP College of Law dean Pacifico Agabin, Felix Carao and Delia Formoso also helped the defense in the earlier part of the trial—before Estrada terminated the services of all his lawyers with the creation of the Special Division.

Court-appointed lawyers who served Estrada briefly included former Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Manuel Pamaran, private lawyers Prospero Crescini, Irene Jurado, Public Attorney's Office chief Persida Acosta and PAO lawyers Arturo Temanil, Joefferson Toribio, Melita Lauron, Silvestre Mosing, Francisco Sanchez III, Wilfredo Andres, Oscar Co, and Maximo Usita Jr.

Retired Chief Justice Andres Narvasa acts as Estrada's legal adviser.

Up to defense lawyers to prolong agony of their client

From page A1

positive portion," which states whether the verdict is conviction or acquittal.)

Urieta said up to four lawyers had been assigned to take turns reading the verdict, in case there would be a full reading.

Three seats facing the bench will be especially placed at the center of the courtroom aisle for Estrada, his coaccused son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and his lawyer Edward Serapio.

For security and order, the courtroom gallery will accommodate only 125 people, Urieta said.

Other cameras or audio recording devices are prohibited, and bottled beverages are banned.

Urieta said the Estrada camp had asked that at least 26 seats be reserved for the ex-President's family and supporters, including former members of his Cabinet.

Senator Estrada, who has been out on bail since 2003, also made a separate request for seats for seven of his colleagues in the Senate.

The Office of the Ombudsman, the agency that prosecuted Estrada, wants as many as 37 seats. Its "guest" list includes Luis "Chavit" Singson, Estrada's nemesis and the prosecution star witness.

24-hour security

According to Urieta, the three justices deciding Estrada's fate have been under 24-hour security "for the last 10 days" and will remain so for several days after judgment day "depending on our assessment."

The Special Division is chaired by Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro. Its members are Associate Justices Francisco Villaruz Jr. and Diosdado Peralta.

As an added precaution, the Sandiganbayan suspended work today for its personnel, except those directly involved in the promulgation.

At least two ambulances and two medical teams will be on standby near the courthouse, Urieta said.

Estrada will be transported by land to the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City from his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, as early as 7 a.m.

He will make the trip in his own vehicle.

Should Estrada be convicted, he would be whisked from the courthouse in another vehicle to be provided and driven by the Philippine National Police, according to a source.

'Big headache'

The promulgation of the verdict is expected to draw a large stellar crowd from Estrada's family and Cabinet, as well as lawmakers and supporters.

And Ferdie Ramos, Estrada's media liaison officer who has been assigned to get seats for his boss' guests, is fretting about how to get all the VIPs into the courtroom.

"It's a big headache," he said.

Ramos' main worry is whom to choose from among the more than 100 VIPs scrambling to get into the courtroom with the 20 allotted seats.

"Everyone is a VIP. My problem is how to select the VIP among the VIPs," he said in a phone interview. "More than 100 want to get in, but we're only given 20 slots by the Sandiganbayan."

As of noon yesterday, Ramos had reserved seats for Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. and Mayors Alfredo Lim of Manila, Edward Hagedorn of Puerto Princesa, Toby Tiangco of Navotas and Jejomar Binay of Makati.

Also on the list were Representatives Rufus Rodriguez of Cagayan de Oro, Ronaldo Zamora of San Juan, Didagen Dilangalen of Shariff Kabunsuan and Wahab Akbar of Basilan, and Fortunato Aguas of Club Filipino.

The rest of the 20 slots were to be given to incumbent lawmakers and mayors. These are separate from the 20 slots for Estrada's family.

"What if Senators [Panfilo] Lacson, [Manuel] Roxas and [Aquilino] Pimentel show up along with the rest, and request to get in?" Ramos said. "I wouldn't know how to deal with that."

Roll call

Ramos hoped that some of the 20 VIPs would leave the courtroom midway through the proceedings and give way to the other VIPs wanting to hear portions of the verdict.

"The President (Estrada) will insist on the reading of the verdict. It will probably take three to five hours to read. So maybe if the VIPs want to get out and give their seats to the others, that can be worked out," he said.

The Sandiganbayan's Urieta has agreed to allow 50 other VIPs into a holding room on the sixth floor, four floors up from the second-floor courtroom, according to Ramos.

"I hope they will grant our request to have an audio monitor installed there," he said.

Ramos said he had explained to the members of Estrada's Cabinet, who had remained loyal to him through his six years of trial, that all of them could not be accommodated in the courtroom.

"They understand," he said.

Among those expected to show up are former Secretaries Jose Pardo (trade and then finance), Horacio Morales (agrarian reform), Benjamin Diokno (budget), Bienvenido Laguesma (labor), Vicente Rivera (transportation), Alberto Romualdez (health), and Rodolfo Reyes (press), and Felipe Medalla (National Economic and Development Authority).

Estrada's former classmates at the Ateneo de Manila University and Mapua Institute of Technology are also expected to attend the proceeding.

Then there are the members of Estrada's family—his wife Luisa, daughter Jackie, sons Jude and JV Ejercito, the San Juan mayor, and siblings Paul, Marita and Patrocinio, according to Ramos.

"There are 10 slots for Estrada's family. What if his other children want to attend the proceedings? That's another problem," he said.

Mendoza explains ZTE deal to Cabinet

By Christine O. Avendaño

COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY Leandro Mendoza explained yesterday to fellow Cabinet members the controversial contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project won by China's ZTE Corp.

Saludo said it was Mendoza who invited them to the briefing, which they found "informative" because it clarified many things about the project.

Aside from Bunye and Saludo, the briefing was attended by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Trade Secretary Peter Favila, Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera, Commission on High Education head Romulo Neri, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, and Presidential Management Staff head Cerge Remonde.

In a statement, Saludo said Mendoza reviewed with several secretaries the key aspects of the NBN project and pointed out the benefits that the government will get from the project.

"Secretary Mendoza showed how the project would save the government more than P3 billion a year. The annual cost will be P990 million when repayments begin on the proposed 20-year, 3-percent interest rate loan to fund the project," Saludo's statement said.

Through this system, it would provide telecom services for national government agencies (which now cost them P4 billion yearly); "plus billions more for local governments, government corporations, community e-centers, and other state entities down to the poorest municipalities."

The NBN system will have 300 WiMax wireless broadband stations to serve 25,800 offices nationwide.

"These facilities are several times larger than the systems offered by competing suppliers," Saludo said.

Saludo said that Mendoza also recounted the procurement process as follows:

- Review by the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and by the Commission on Information and Communication Technology of rival proposals for more than a year.
- Approval of the project proposal by the National Economic and Development Board.
- Advice from the Government Procurement Policy Board that the NBN is covered by an executive agreement (EA) with no public bidding.
- China's designation of ZTE Corp., a state telecom firm, as supplier under the agreement.
- Department of Justice opinion that the contract was indeed covered by EA.

Mendoza said that the ZTE contract was still awaiting the commitment of the Department of Budget and Management to allocate funds for loan payments and that a loan agreement with China's Export-Import Bank had yet to be negotiated by the Department of Finance.

"The DOTC head noted cases relating to NBN now in the Supreme Court and the Ombudsman, where testimony and other evidence on legal and governance issues may be filed. He supports the President's policy of upholding transparency, integrity, the government and the public interest, and the inviolability of valid contracts in all government transactions," Saludo said.

Mendoza's briefing was about to end when Cabinet members learned that the Supreme Court had issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) on the implementation of the project but Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo said no discussions were held on that development. *(Story on Page A1.)*

"We couldn't react because we haven't received a copy (of the TRO)," Saludo said in a phone interview.

At press time yesterday, Malacañang had not issued a statement because it still had to get a copy of the TRO, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Bunye said President Macapagal-Arroyo did not take up the ZTE contract at yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

But Mendoza explained the NBN project to a smaller group of Cabinet members.

A. Benusa; 51

LAWYER ALLAN E. Benusa of Barugo, Leyte, and Quezon City, died on Sept. 7 after suffering a heart attack. He was 51.

A partner at Martinez, Alcera, Atienza, Benusa and Associates law office, he was also connected with the Land Bank of the Philippines.

He is survived by his wife Elvira Liwanag-Benusa; children Ronald Allan, Cherubin, Allan Anthony and Edgar Allan; sister Benilda B. Fogata, and brothers Cesar and his wife Juliet, Edwin and Gil.

His remains lie at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Cremation is on Saturday morning.

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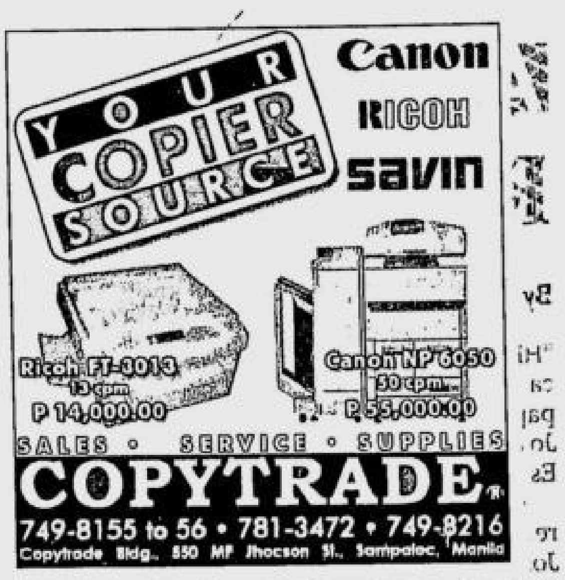
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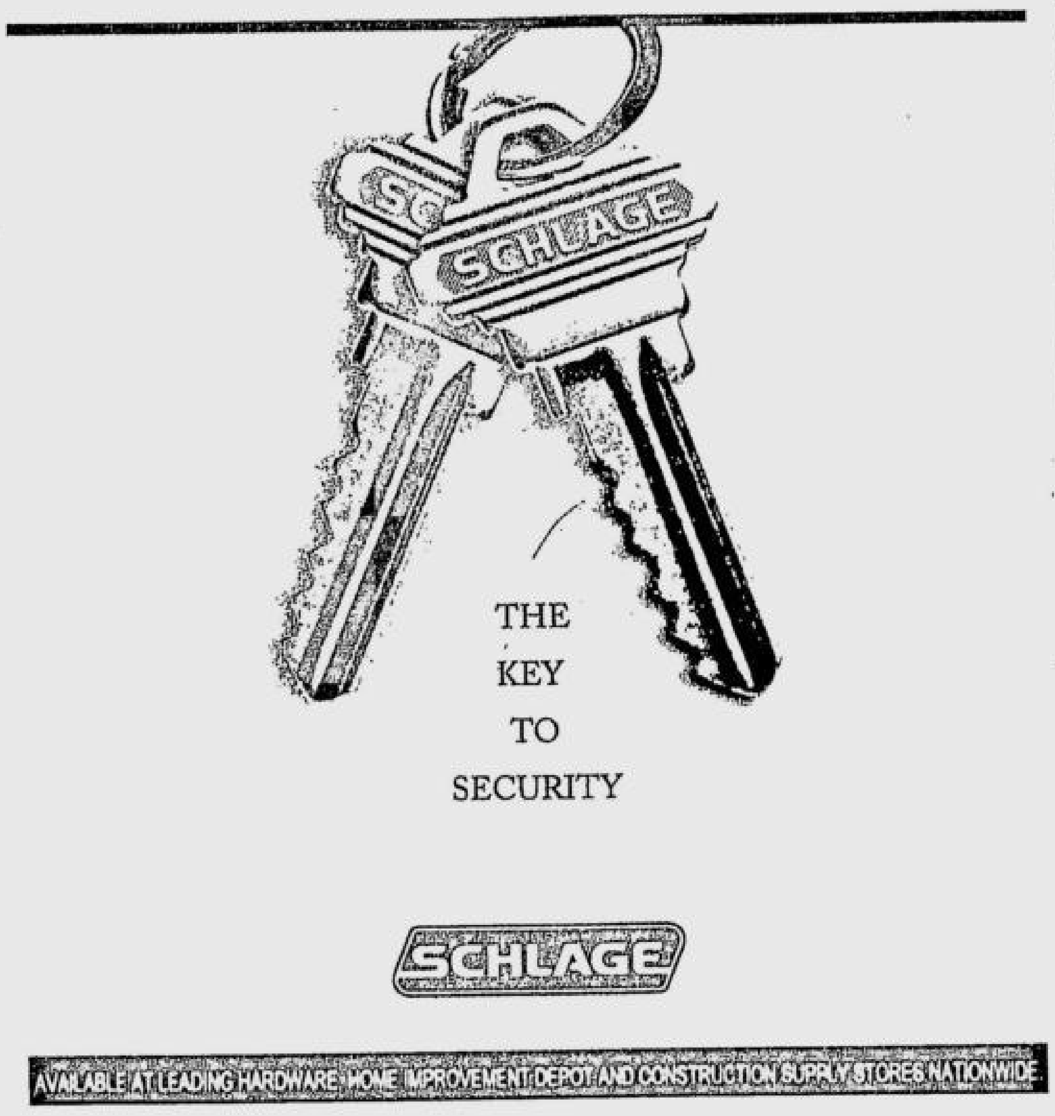
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The faculty for this course, which is participated in by key industry players, is led by Professor Danilo A. Antonio, of the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE), a Guru in the Master in Entrepreneurship (ME) Program.
Prof. Antonio also teaches the Real Estate/Property Management and Finance elective under the Master in Business Administration Program of the Asian Institute of Management.
Prof. Antonio remains active in various business endeavors, particularly in the Philippine Real Estate Industry, where he has accumulated over 27 years of experience in various aspects of the property business. He is CEO and founder of LAND-EXCEL Consulting, CEO of Phoenix Land Inc., developer of Las Haciendas Resort Farms, CEO of Excelsis Land, developer of Desta & Madison South residential villages and Chairman of Canyon Woods Resort Club.
Prof. Antono holds a Master in Business Management degree (With Distinction) from the Asian Institute of Management (1978) and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics Degree (Summa Cum Laude) from De La Salle University (1974).
ACE ASIAN CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

9/11 shot takes toll on woman photographer

From page A1

was the only known picture of that ominous gray cloud—and the first shot after Flight 93 crashed—McClatchey thought she was still doing the right thing when she gave copies to people who asked for them, and let newspapers and television stations use it.

But fame for the photo has had an unexpected cost for the photographer.

"Every time I've done any stories it goes online and all these conspiracy theorists start up and they call me and harass me," said McClatchey, 51, who runs her own real estate company.

In numerous online postings, critics have ripped apart every element of the photo—and McClatchey's life. They accuse her of faking the photo, of profiteering from it and of being part of a conspiracy to cover up the fact that Flight 93 was shot down by the government.

They claim the mushroom cloud is from an ordnance blast, not a jet crashing; the cloud is the wrong color for burning jet fuel; the cloud is too small and in the wrong position.

"It's just gotten so bad, I'm just fed up with it," McClatchey said. "This thing has become too much of a distraction in my life. I have a husband and a new business to deal with, too."

No reason to doubt it

The FBI, the Smithsonian Institution—which used the photo in an exhibition on Sept. 11—and the National Park Service's Flight 93 National Memorial—which has used the photo in pamphlets—all consider the photo legitimate.

"We have no reason to doubt it," said Bill Crowley, an agent who is a spokesperson for the Pittsburgh FBI office, which oversaw evidence collection in Shanksville.

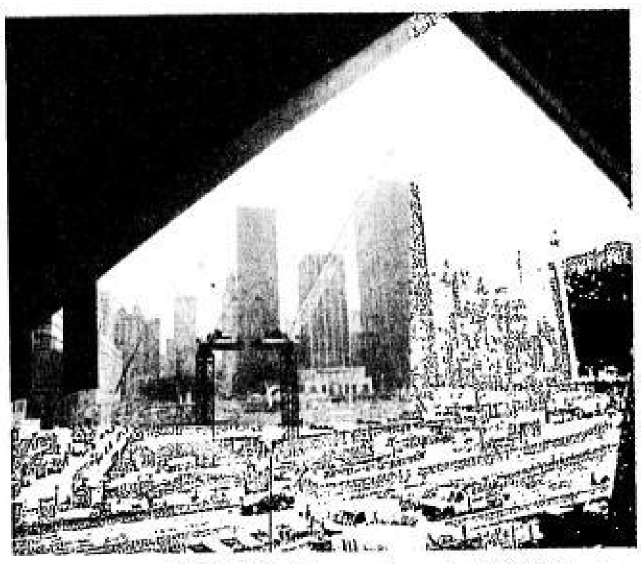
From the beginning, McClatchey said, she tried to use the photograph to help remember the 40 passengers on Flight 93.

She sells copies to people and lets them choose whether $18 of the $20 fee goes to the Flight 93 National Memorial or the Heroic Choices organization (formerly the Todd Beamer Foundation).

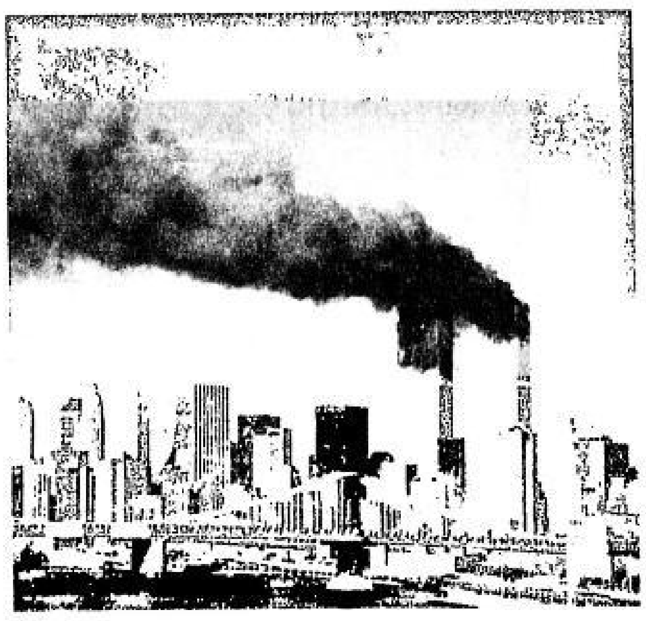
Sued AP

To ensure that she controlled distribution of the photograph, she copyrighted in January 2002.

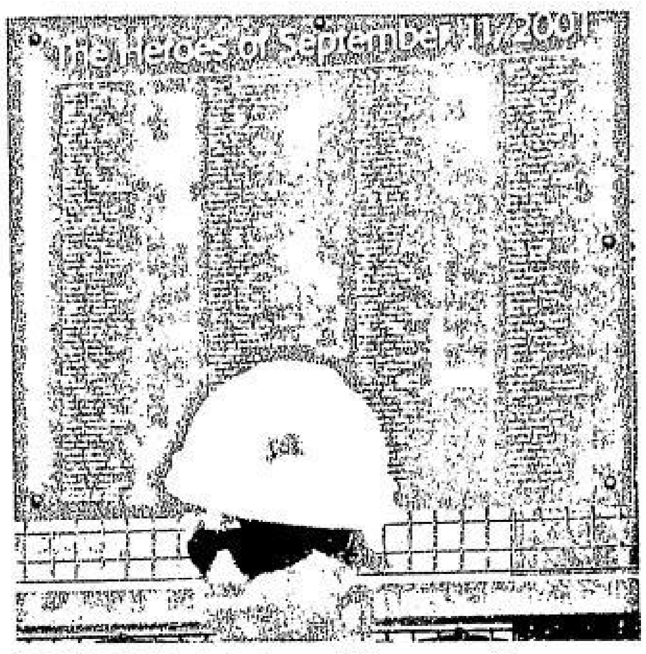
To "protect the integrity of the photo," McClatchey said, she filed suit in 2005 against The Associated Press, saying that it violated her copyright by distributing the photo to its clients as part of a story. The lawsuit is pending. *New York Times News Service*



VIEW OF GROUND ZERO from where the World Trade Center once towered above the rest in New York City is photographed a day before the sixth anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001. In a new video, al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden predicts an escalation of the Iraq war. AFP



NO PHOTOS ARE NEEDED to remind people what happened in New York City six years ago. It is etched in the memory of the world. REUTERS



HONOR ROLL: A sign bears all the names of the more than 3,000 people who perished in the suicide attacks. AFP

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Acquittal in 'unusual' case is trouble for GMA

From page A1

unusual case in that one of those who decided to get rid of him in 2001 was the Supreme Court itself in a role that was never designed to be its own."

But if an acquittal is any consolation, Saguisag said it would validate the idea that a sitting president, especially someone like Estrada who had an overwhelming mandate, was not supposed to be ousted by "mob rule."

"The outside world was amazed," Saguisag said. "Unlike the first People Power which enjoyed wide support, the event in 2001 was never accepted by much of the civilized world."

Saguisag said it was unlikely that either the prosecution or defense would score a "grand slam," meaning a sweeping conviction or acquittal on all four cases against Estrada.

"It could be somewhere in between," he said. "But we feel that his guilt was never proven."

But Rep. Teodoro Casiño of the leftist Bayan Muna said an acquittal should not be directly connected to Edsa II.

"An acquittal may mean simply that the prosecution bungled its case," he said.

Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, whose militant Akbayan group was among those that called for the ouster of Estrada, expressed indifference to the Sandiganbayan verdict.

Baraquel said the trial "has long ceased to be a case determining Estrada's accountability and has become about (President Macapagal-Arroyo's) political survival."

Ultimate losers

"(Ms Arroyo), due to her desire to shore up her legitimacy and survive the political crisis, has put into question the credibility and integrity of the Sandiganbayan as an institution," she said.

"The vulnerabilities of the administration has determined the conduct of administration relative to the case, thus tainting the credibility of the ruling," Baraquel said.

Expecting a conviction, the lawmaker said the verdict should reach the Supreme Court if only to "lead to an acceptable closure to the case."

Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Lingayen and Dagupan said today's verdict would be a "political decision made of 'no here' and 'yes there,' which will make practically everybody unhappy."

Who's more guilty?

"It will be the people of the Philippines, who are already poor and miserable, who are the ultimate losers in the Erap case and the (Ms Arroyo) dilemma. How true is the saying that when dogs fight, the grass under their feet die," Cruz said in an interview yesterday and in a statement posted on his blog (www.ovc.blogspot.com).

If Estrada is found guilty, "how could a glorious someone (Ms Arroyo) rejoice when the Filipinos, by and large, consider her more guilty of bigger and more public atrocities than the person accused," Cruz said.

On the other hand, if Estrada is acquitted, "how would people react toward the same someone who triumphantly took over the government by perceived questionable means, not once in 2001 but the second time around by 2004," he asked.

"In other words, the already long existing distrust and disgust toward the present national leadership cannot but become more felt and expressed on the forthcoming resolution of the Erap case—[regardless] of whether the accused is found guilty or otherwise." *With reports from Beverly T. Natividad and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Girl who got 3-hr Erap interview won't judge him

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE 12-YEAR-OLD GIRL WHO ONCE INTERVIEWED Joseph Estrada for a school project had kept a distant interest in his plunder trial.

"I didn't really follow it that well, only when I got the chance," Keeshia Rose Wee Eng, now 15, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

But with the verdict expected today, Wee Eng called on other Filipinos much older and experienced than she to be levelheaded about it.

"I think everybody should respect the verdict, whatever it turns out [to be]. It is the law," she said.

Wee Eng said she did not want to rely too much on media reports to make a stand on Estrada's guilt or innocence.

"Over the years ... I just got information from the media. But I think the media are not that accurate. I don't want to base [my stand] on just that," she said.

According to Wee Eng, it was the negative side of Estrada's trial that was highlighted by the media. She said she was not made fully aware of the ousted President's positive aspects.

Friendly

Now in her junior year at the MGC New Life Christian Academy in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Wee Eng recalled Estrada as "very friendly and generous."

So generous, she said, that he took three hours to regale her with stories of his childhood.

"I was allowed [by the Sandiganbayan] to talk to him for only 20 minutes. But he was very generous; we talked for three hours," she said in a phone interview.

At that time, Wee Eng was a sixth grader at the former Makati Gospel Christian Academy.

She went to the interview—part of a project for her English class, which involved interviewing a personality and writing a report—accompanied by her mom Sheila, sister Rochelle, cousin Mark Henry Go and teacher Maryann Papey.

Out of the ordinary

"I wanted someone out of the ordinary," Wee Eng said when asked why she chose Estrada for her subject.

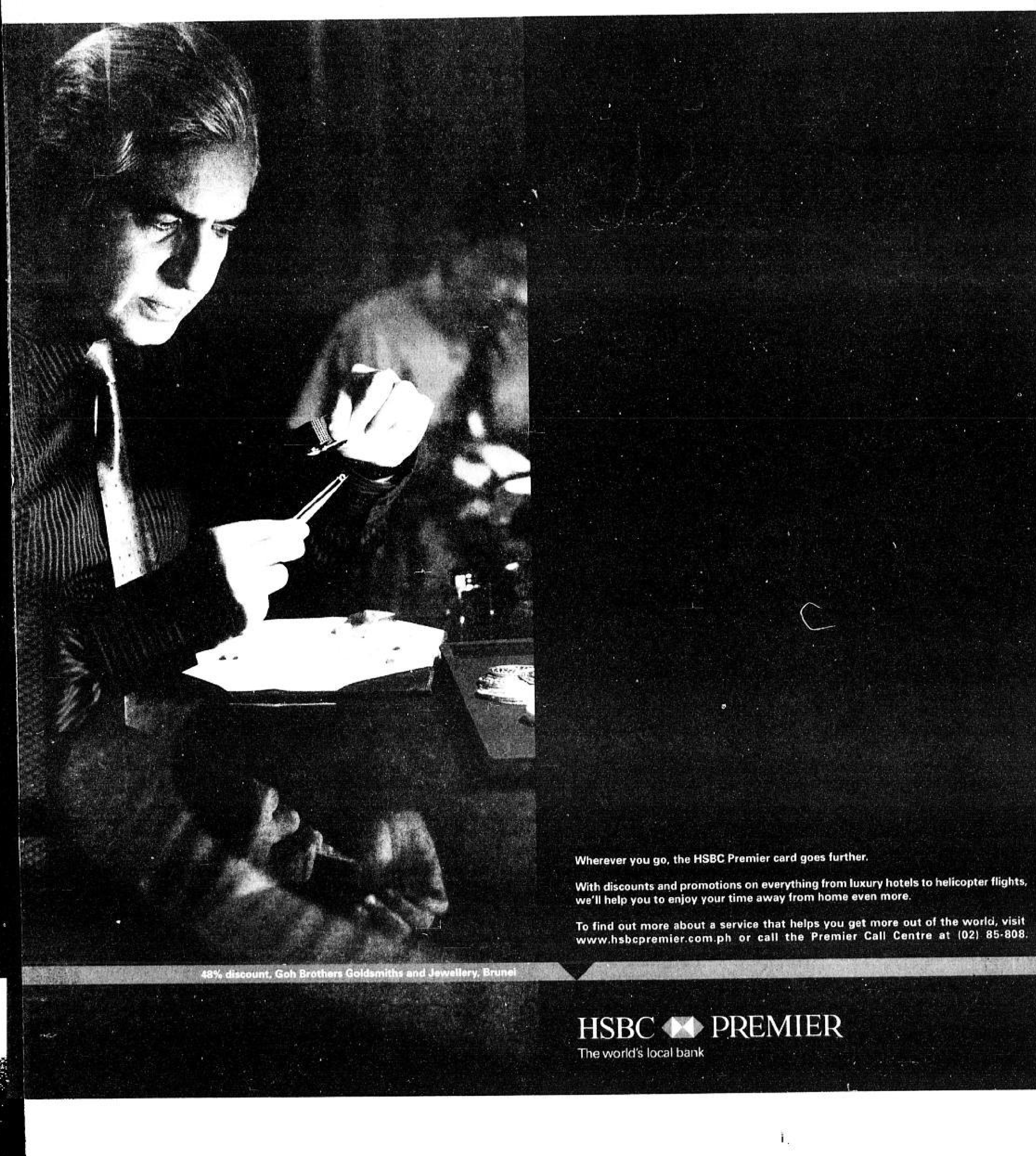
She said that during a talk with her family at home, her mother suggested the ex-President as a subject. She then wrote the Sandiganbayan seeking permission to see Estrada at his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal.

Wee Eng was aware of the circumstances that landed him there, and was not allowed by the court to ask anything related to the then ongoing plunder trial.

Thus, she and her subject talked at length about his childhood, his teachers (the friendly and the strict), and his buddies in school.

"He was very *makuwento* (chatty). He focused more on his strict teachers and his good friends. He even told a story about how he had defended a friend from a bully," she recalled.

Wee Eng said that despite the stature of her interviewee, she felt comfortable in his presence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Both sides guilty

EDITORIAL

IT'S BEEN THE BATTLE OF THE ICONS LEADING UP to today. Yesterday, a full-page ad, signed by society matrons who have been busy signing pro-administration manifestos since 2005, came out with another signed statement appealing to the public to respect the Sandiganbayan's verdict. Their ad was plastered with pictures of Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, former President Fidel V. Ramos and Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Teresita de Castro.

The camp of former President Joseph Estrada did its share. The ex-President himself growled that he was prepared to endure imprisonment in Muntinlupa. Sen. Jinggoy Estrada speculated on an unfavorable verdict. The defendant's camp certainly did its share of trying to condition the public mind, including applying for a series of rally permits.

Fortress Malacañang has been on pins and needles for weeks now, maneuvering both publicly and behind the scenes to diminish the impact of whatever verdict the Sandiganbayan hands down. On one hand, it has pulled out all the stops to project power. That projection ranges from the Presidential Security Group not only being in full battle gear for some time now, but its commander remaining in the Palace compound even when the President went abroad.

On the other hand, its efforts to project a sense of unassailable armed strength have been belied by its dangling a proposal for an amnesty. A proposal, we've pointed out in the past, that has been used for its own purposes by Estrada's partisans, even though Estrada himself has gone through the motions of saying he'd refuse any pardon or amnesty offer.

The result has been a country—including the financial markets—nervously awaiting a verdict, while the Palace and Estrada's people work to undercut both the actual verdict and its effects on the defendants. Both sides, it bears repeating, have thus tried to undercut the court. Just as they systematically tried to undercut the trial itself, including dragging it out, which delayed the delivery of justice but gave both sides additional room for political maneuvering. Central to both administration and Estrada loyalist thinking was projecting the case as a rallying point for the faithful, instead of acknowledging that the justice system represented the best way to secure the interests of the citizenry as a whole.

Ferdinand Marcos might have escaped the long arm of the law. His disgrace, however, raised the bar with regard to the accountability of all his successors. Before Marcos, there was no crime called plunder. Since 1991, plunder as a capital crime has become a Damocles' sword hanging over the head of every president of the republic.

The two former presidents of South Korea, Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo, caused a sensation in Asia when they were convicted and imprisoned for acts committed during their terms. Both served only a year in jail, receiving a pardon from President Kim Dae-jung as an act of national reconciliation. The Philippines had a golden opportunity to match the symbolic impact of the conviction of two former presidents in a sister democracy. Sadly, today, our country has to confront the reality that for too many, the process has been so tainted as to deny the broader public a sense of satisfaction, whatever the verdict might be.

It will be premature to say anything concerning the verdict. We can only hope that the public will be pleasantly surprised by the Sandiganbayan decision. Just as the Supreme Court has managed to pull the nation back from the brink, despite the at times collective madness of the executive and legislative branches, so, too, may the Sandiganbayan amaze the public with a demonstration of the fearless and impartial application of the law.

If not, both prosecution and defense can still file an appeal before the Supreme Court. What the administration and opposition surely deserve censure for, even at this point, is how they both tried to turn what could have been an impartial trial into a never-ending series of opportunities to personalize, and thus politicize, the law. They will always be guilty of that.

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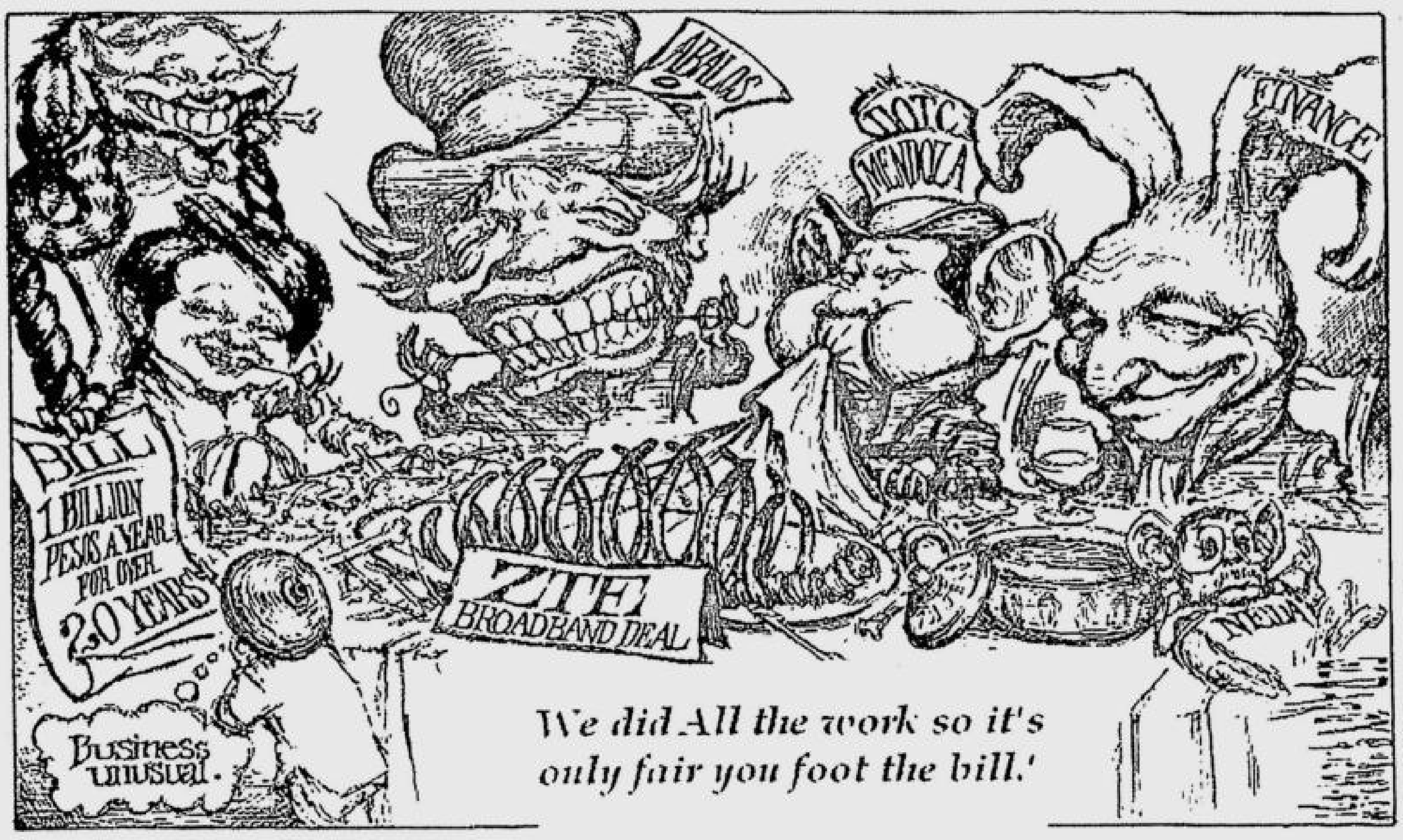
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'Mother of all land titling scandals'

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE SUPREME COURT EN BANC HEARD oral arguments for and against claimants to large tracts of prime land spanning four Metro Manila cities: Quezon, Caloocan, Malabon and Valenzuela. The Court will have to decide which of two original certificates of titles (OCTs) dating back to 1917, both numbered 994, and from which hundreds of transfer certificates of titles have emanated is authentic. The decision will finally settle what the late Chief Justice and Senate President Marcelo Fernan described as "the mother of all land title scandals in the country." With Fernan as chair, the Senate justice and human rights committee, together with the committee on urban planning and housing resettlement, investigated this Maysilo Estate case.

The scandal started in 1962 when Caloocan City registrar of deeds Yolanda Alfonso, together with assistant registrar of deeds Norberto Vazquez Jr., allowed the change of registration date of an original certificate of title (OCT) of Maysilo Estate, making it appear that there were two such titles to the same huge track of land spanning portions of the four cities and affecting hundreds of thousands of residents and businessmen from Sangandaan all the way to Monumento in Caloocan, up to Balintawak in Quezon City, including portions of the North Luzon Expressway and Araneta Subdivision in Malabon. Now, two OCTs—OCT 994 issued on April 19, 1917 and OCT 994 issued on May 3, 1917—cover the same parcel of land. Ironically, it was the Supreme Court itself that made the confusion worse by accepting, in a 1992 decision, the existence of two OCTs and ruling that the OCT dated April 19, 1917, being issued earlier than the OCT dated May 3, 1917 was the superior and valid title. Thus, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) lost its huge compound in Caloocan under a three-decade-old TCT originating from OCT 994 of May 3, 1917, to a claimant whose title originated from OCT 994 dated April 1917. But a technical plotting by the Land Registration Authority (LRA) showed that the claimant's "lot" was located more than 12,000 meters away from the MWSS property. This decision wreaked havoc on the country's land titling system.

Then Justice Secretary Teofisto Guingona formed a fact-finding inter-agency committee chaired by Undersecretary Ricardo Nepomuceno Jr. The investigation found that OCT 994 dated April 19, 1917 was non-existent for being "a fabrication" by Alfonso and Vazquez who "acted maliciously, fraudulently and in bad faith" when they signed a TCT in the name of a person bearing a wrong date of registration.

The investigation report said Alfonso's "acquiescence in the alteration of the date of registration of OCT 994 in the titles" of a person as well as her act of deliberately ignoring the legal safeguards, especially her failure to require the presentation of a subdivision plan duly approved by the LRA or by the Land Management Bureau, for the titles of the applicant, are sufficient basis to find her guilty of grave misconduct. President Joseph Estrada dismissed Alfonso and Vazquez for grave misconduct and dishonesty.

The dismissals were affirmed by the Supreme Court. Associate Justice Conchita Carpio Morales, who wrote the decision for the second division, stressed: "By failing to prevent the irregularity that she (Alfonso) had reason to suspect all along or to take immediate steps to rectify it, petitioner had tolerated the same and allowed it to wreak havoc on our land titling system. Sadly that condition continues to rear its ugly head today."

This fabrication of OCT 994 dated April 19, 1917 has a bearing on the awarding by the Court of the vast Maysilo Estate to its rightful owners. The estate is being contested by claimants using the two OCTs: Manotok Realty and Real Estate Corp. and Araneta Institute of Agriculture Inc., which use OCT 994 dated May 3, 1917 as basis for their claim of ownership, and the heirs of Jose Dimson and his assignee, CLT Development Corp., who use OCT 994 dated April 19, 1917 as their legal basis.

An adverse decision based on the fake OCT would set a precedent that would endanger the rights of the rest of the country's legitimate land title holders and the integrity of the country's land titles.

The Manotoks and AIA have been in peaceful, continuous and legal possession of the Maysilo Estate since the 1940s. But some time in the 1960s, Dimson filed a case to claim ownership of the vast estate, using as basis the spurious OCT 994 dated April 19, 1917. Dimson was said to be a lawyer of Ma. Conception Vidal's grandchild, Bernardino Rivera, and as payment for legal services rendered, the latter gave him a deed of conveyance of 25 percent of his share of the Maysilo Estate.

Then Pasig Judge Cecilia Muñoz Palma confirmed the conveyance but disallowed the actual awarding of property and title to Dimson in 1966 because his 25 percent share had already been properly adjudicated by Bernardino Rivera to his heirs and assignees. This meant there was no more available land to be given to Dimson.

In 1977, or 11 years later, Dimson moved to execute the deed of conveyance issued by the Pasig judge before a Caloocan court. Despite the irregularity and without the presentation of the original of OCT 994 and the subdivision plan approved by the LRA or the Bureau of Lands, Caloocan Judge Marcelino Sayo granted Dimson's motion and issued in his favor TCT 15169 covering 500,000 sq m of Lot 25-A-2 of the Maysilo Estate. This lot is the property covered by the TCT of the AIA.

(To be continued)

Day of reckoning

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

LOOK AT IT THIS WAY:

If the government that came after Erap had hewn reasonably close to the dreams of Edsa II, we would have no problems with the Sandiganbayan verdict today. If Erap were found innocent, then we would console ourselves with the thought that that's just the way democracy is, win some, lose some, the seeming defeat of justice is made up for by the strengthening of the judicial process. If Erap were found guilty, then we would be filled with the euphoria of another Edsa and proclaim to ourselves and to the world that justice is done, we have closure, we can move on.

But the GMA administration did not. And there's one very big rub.

You put a crook at the mercy of a decent judge, and you'll accept his or her decision however it goes. You put a crook at the mercy of a corrupt judge, and you will reject his or her decision however it goes. No, more than that, you put a crook at the mercy of a decent judge, and you know that the judged deserves to be judged. You put a crook at the mercy of a corrupt judge, and you know that the judge ought to be judged.

As I've said in previous columns, Erap's case is no longer about Erap, it is about GMA. That's the irony and tragedy of Edsa II. Seven years after the event, courtesy of the government that ousted him, Erap looms victorious in defeat.

Yes, victorious. I don't see how he can lose today.

At the very least, today's verdict thrusts him back to the limelight. So long as he was in detention with his case still pending, he was perfectly malleable, or at least vulnerable. He could be pressured to make all sorts of compromises with the government, aided in no small way by his natural proclivity for a comfortable, if not sybaritic, lifestyle. And if his recent moves are any indication, not least throwing his support behind the one person who impeached him in the House, who is Manuel Villar, he could indeed be made to do the unthinkable. Either that or he's just not very bright.

More to the point, so long as he was in detention with his case still pending, he could be shoved to the background and consigned to near-oblivion. Over the past few years, Erap has flown very low on the public radar, appearing as a bleep there only intermittently, on birthdays, anniversaries and brief appearances in court. His view on life has not been actively solicited by media. Today, if the paratroop journalists that have descended on this country once again are anything to go by, he's back in the public eye. For how long, given that it's a tossup which is shorter, the media or Filipino public's attention span?

Depends on the verdict. But either way, it doesn't bode well for government.

If Erap is found innocent, then it frees him to rally the opposition—or the *trapo* part of the opposition—around him. He has the money and the continuing, if currently muted, appeal to the *masa*. He will have no limitations to his access to media and can openly court them, if the media themselves do not naturally gravitate to him after he becomes a free man.

Infinitely more importantly, if he is found innocent, then GMA is found guilty. Or less mysteriously, if he is found innocent, then it calls into question GMA's legitimacy not just after May 2004 but after January 2001. If there is no reason, at least legally, to believe he pillaged the nation to death, then there is no reason, at least morally, to believe he should have been ousted in the first place. Then there is reason only to believe what Mentong Laurel and Niñez Cacho-Olivares have been saying all this time, which is that he is the legitimate president of this country and GMA has been a usurper from the start. Then we owe it to him to reinstall him posthaste to serve out the remainder of his term.

If he is found innocent, then he will be the equivalent of FPJ had FPJ been around after the "Hello Garci" scandal: the living alternative to illegitimate rule.

If on the other hand he is found guilty, then he becomes a martyr. If he is found guilty, then GMA is found guilty as well. Or less mysteriously again, if he is found guilty then it calls attention to this government's moral right, or lack of it, to try him. For make no mistake about it, only the most ardent GMA defender, and maybe not even so, will believe the Sandiganbayan acted independently on this. It's not just the Erap legions who are bound to bristle at a guilty verdict, it's the public at large. The general attitude will be more than a cynical "Let him who has no sin cast the first stone," it will be an irate "Why don't we just stone the bigger sinner?"

Quite apart from that, a guilty verdict on Erap will be incredibly precedent-setting, whose implications cannot be lost on the person who replaced him. No president may henceforth feel safe from prosecution after this, especially one who has not only stolen money but human life, the vote and a nation's honor along with it. Indeed, well before GMA's arraignment transpires in physical reality several years from now, it will transpire in our minds immediately after a guilty verdict on Erap. Why Erap only? Why not someone who has done worse?

Then the Marcoses could shout their heads off about persecution at the hands of the Cory administration, and no one but the loyalists would be around to listen to them. Today, Erap needs only to be condemned as a crook by GMA—for that is the face the Sandiganbayan will wear today—and he will look violently *inapi* or *kinawawa*. If I recall right, the last time he looked like that, which was when he was fingerprinted at a police precinct upon arrest, a ragged and barefoot army invaded Bishop Socrates Villegas' favorite shrine.

It's not just God who works in mysterious ways, the devil does, too. In this earthly hell more than others.

Few Erap loyalists to man the barricades

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE HIGH DRAMA OF THE ANTI-CLIMACTIC termination of the impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada in the Senate on Jan. 16, 2001, returns to the center stage of a long-running political conflict today as the Sandiganbayan hands down a verdict on the P4-billion plunder case against the deposed president.

The anti-graft court completes, after six years of trial, what was aborted at the impeachment trial when senator-judges, on an 11-10 vote, succeeded in preventing the opening of a crucial piece of evidence, a second brown envelope containing the account made up of checks on which Estrada allegedly signed the name Jose Velarde. Among the senators who stoutly defended Estrada during the trial were Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, lawyers of note and formidable reputations and now allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The suppression of the evidence sparked a walkout by the prosecution panel headed by the lead prosecutor Rep. Joker Arroyo. With the walkout, the trial collapsed, driving the case to the turbulent arena of people power for resolution on Jan. 21, 2001. On that day, Estrada's government crumbled under the pressure of mob rule after the military withdrew its support from his regime.

The impeachment trial lasted no more than 46 days, after then Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson denounced Estrada for allegedly receiving more than P400 million in illegal *jueteng* collections from November 1998 to August 2000. And yet, those 46 days consumed the attention of the nation and partly paralyzed government business and divided and gripped the nation more than any other criminal case in the judicial history of the country.

The abortion of the impeachment trial left unsettled the most absorbing corruption case in the country's sordid annals of political corruption, rivaling the economic plunder of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The recovery of Marcos' ill-gotten wealth remains up to this day an unfinished business. From this point of view, it might serve as a consolation that we are not so badly off in putting closure to a corruption case with the termination of the Estrada plunder case. We are at the very least demonstrating that our judicial institutions, no matter their faults and backlogs in deciding cases, are capable of terminating cases. The courts are proving that the judicial process is capable of prosecuting to the end criminal cases involving powerful officials, including the president.

In the Sandiganbayan trial, the nation was not as stressed with the high tension of the impeachment trial. The tedious judicial process served to wear down public excitement and, indeed, the trial simmered down to a routine process in which there were few surprises from the loads of evidence revealed during the trial. It is not far from the truth to say that the public developed fatigue from the drawn-out trial. And yet, the nation is divided over the expected outcome as it was, albeit more deeply, during the impeachment.

When the Senate aborted the impeachment with the suppression of the second envelope, it ignited a spontaneous combustion of street protests whose scale prompted the military high command to withdraw its support from Estrada, one of the few times that the military leadership was not divided since People Power I, when it was split between the mutinous group of Enrile, Ramos and Honasan, and the Marcos loyalists led by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian Ver. The Edsa II military defection accurately read the angry civil society mood over the suppression of the second envelope and the frustration over the abrupt termination of the impeachment trial. The desertion of the military followed the public mood.

Today, there is no tension that a judicial decision will be aborted. The public is resigned to the fact that a decision, one way or the other, is forthcoming. Fears that a guilty decision would send Estrada supporters, supposedly from the masses, to the streets in such numbers as to unduly stretch the precautions of government security forces are not founded on reality.

It's no thanks to the efforts of President Macapagal-Arroyo that the Sandiganbayan has gone through the entire trial process discharging its task of rendering justice to every man and woman, regardless of their station in life, with relative independence. The presidency was also in a quandary. If the President had intervened with the court in whatever way, any verdict would have damned her. It would not have enhanced her legitimacy. She still has a problem with the Garci tapes.

Those who claim that the poor would be furious with a verdict of guilty because they would lose their only champion with Estrada's conviction are indulging in wishful thinking. But in the worst of times for Estrada, especially when he was arrested to stand trial for plunder, there were not enough of the poor rushing to the streets to crash into the presidential palace as they did on May Day 2001. There will not be enough of them behind any barricades today. They never had a true champion in Estrada even before his arrest.

For all his pro-poor rhetoric and his display of a bleeding heart for them, Estrada did not deliver during his short-lived presidency any long-term benefit to the masses. During his detention while standing trial, Estrada lived a princely life under house arrest in his estate in Tanay, with plenty of privileges which the administration granted, partly to show its humanitarian magnanimity and partly, I suspect, to show up their champion as not one of them, sharing their poverty.

Many mothers

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AS YOUNG MOTHERS, MY FRIENDS AND I once devoted an entire feminist consciousness-raising session on our relationships with our *yayas*. As I said at the time, where before we used to worry about how long our relationships with our boyfriends (and then husbands) would last, these days, we worried most about how long our relationship with our children's *yayas*, or nursemaids, would last.

On one hand, we worried about our *yayas* finding more lucrative jobs, or running off with their boyfriends after they had already bonded with their wards, causing terrible separation anxiety on both the kids' part and their parents'. On the other, we felt pangs of jealousy and inexplicable insecurity when the bonding between child and *yaya* proved too durable, sidelining our roles as mothers or even primary caregivers.

We came to the conclusion that there was nothing wrong with surrendering part of our motherly authority—to dad or *yaya*—because no one was keeping score or judging us. And if our children found love and compassion from people other than their parents or blood relatives, so much the better for them!

Love, we realized, is an unadulterated good no matter its source. We also concluded that a child is raised by more people than we realize, including the people they meet in school, in the community and even those they watch on TV or read about in books. Years later, Hillary Clinton would sum it up for us by way of an African saying: "It takes a village to raise a child."

* * *

IN THE movie "Foster Child," which starts its commercial run today, Thelma (Cherrie Pie Picache) is in the "business" of raising children. Her current ward, John-john, whom everyone calls "Tisoy" (Kier Segundo), has been with her for three years. She has raised him from a scrawny, asthmatic premature baby to a good-looking and smart boy. On the day we visit Thelma in her tiny home in an urban poor community, she is set to turn him over to his adoptive parents. With the help of their social worker "Miss Biancs" (Eugene Domingo), Thelma, Tisoy and the rest of the family negotiate the painful road that leads to the final parting, a separation that they had all known about and anticipated.

Thelma may be a foster mother, who gets P1,500 a month from the NGO Kaisang Buhay Foundation which arranges for the fostering and adoption of orphans and abandoned babies, but clearly fostering for her and for her husband and two sons is more than just a job. It means investing in the life of a child, and not just money for diapers and milk, but also care and concern, time and effort, pride and abiding affection.

* * *

DIRECTED by Brillante Mendoza ("Kaleldo"), with script by Ralston Javier ("Kubrador"), both of them stalwarts of the "indie" film movement, "Foster Child" has the feel of an "indie" production. It takes a documentary "day in the life" approach to tell the story of Thelma, and was shot in real-time, meaning there was little chance for Picache and the rest of the cast to re-tool their performances from take to take.

At times, "Foster Child" plays like "Kubrador," with its long, lingering and dizzying tracking shots as characters wend their way through the bewildering alleyway maze of the typical urban poor community. It also has echoes of the earlier award-winning film in its intense focus on Thelma. Indeed, Picache deserves the accolades given her. She allows herself to be "dressed down" for the role, at times disheveled and sweaty. Her "breakdown" scene plays naturally, effortlessly, communicating by her own restraint the intensity of her sorrow and pain.

Indeed, Cherrie Pie Picache has come a long way from the days she first burst into our consciousness as far back as when she was a little-known co-host of the noontime show "Student Canteen," then making an unsuccessful comeback attempt with an aging Eddie Ilarde. I suspected Cherrie Pie was there mainly for decorative effect, but I knew she was more than just a pretty face when she coolly fended off a sneaky kiss from Ilarde during a mock "radio drama" segment. I wasn't surprised at all when she weathered the moviemaking doldrums to emerge queen—and "internationally acclaimed" leading lady—of the indies.

* * *

I HADN'T heard of the term "open adoption" until I read about it in a book about how a gay couple adopted their son through such a scheme. Unlike in traditional adoptions, the birth parents (but often only the mother), gets to choose among several couples who will eventually raise the child. The ties between the biological parents and the new adoptive family are not cut, but rather strengthened, with both urged to keep in touch and update each other on the child's progress.

While watching "Foster Child," it occurred to me that open adoption would have solved the wrenching pain of not just natural and adoptive parents, as well as of adopted children, but even of "collateral" personalities like Thelma.

Traditional adoption arrangements were conceived on the theory that for a child's emotional stability, he or she must know only one set of parents, the same set of authority figures and emotional sustainers. But experience has taught me that children thrive amid a circle of affirmation, among people who love them, are crazy about them, are willing to teach them, will spend time with them. And it hardly matters where this support comes from: parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends of the family, *yayas*, teachers, role models.

If "Foster Child" honors women who mother other women's children because fostering is a far better alternative to institutionalization, it also tells us that their pain is no more dulled by separation and forgetting than it would be if those children had been connected to them by an umbilical cord.

Blog experience

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WRITING HISTORY FOR NEWSPAPERS AND magazines has been a long solitary journey. In the age before e-mail and the Internet, you did not get feedback right away. People who read the articles and columns and were moved enough to react were more often than not too lazy to write a real letter and send it to the editors by snail mail. Feedback was rare, though there are a handful of people who have made it a career to send letters to the editor.

Today e-mail response is swift. When I open my mailbox the morning a column has appeared both in the print and online versions of the INQUIRER, there is e-mail waiting for me. Many letters come from expatriate Filipinos who continue to learn history through this column and enjoy it as well. The rest come from students asking for copies of previous columns or asking questions for their school assignments.

The only setback in placing an e-mail address below the column is that I get a lot of spam, ranging from offers of penis enlargers or Viagra to some Nigerian who wants to send me millions of dollars if I would send him my bank account number.

It is unfortunate that we delete spam without even opening them. One day these things will be worth academic investigation as a sign of our times.

Because I'm a Neanderthal in terms of computers and gadgets, my niece keeps me updated on comments about me or my work appearing in blogs that come her way. One of my favorites came out early this year when I experimented with the LRT and MRT to get me from work in Quezon City to home in Makati. I did not realize that one of our students who, of course, will remain anonymous was in the same train and here was what appeared in her blog:

"Today on my way home, I saw this familiar arm. His arm was covering his face and I couldn't see it. There was a guy beside him who .... looked like a faculty from the [Ateneo] School Of Social Sciences... anyway, minutes later of observing his hairy arm, I realized, it was Ambeth Ocampo.

"NOW... I know that: 1.) We've been trying to get the [National Historical Institute's] word on Read Or Die. 2.) Ambeth Ocampo is like a matsutake... frigging rare mushroom type. 3.) This is probably the only chance I will ever nail Ambeth Ocampo!! But by Santolan he was standing somewhere far from me. It's not like I'd go 'HEY! Mr. Ocampo! I'm some history major girl and you don't know me since I wasn't able to take your class because you didn't teach during our sem[ester] and we chose Fr. Joey [Cruz, SJ] instead, but hey! I still love you and your books, can you attend Read Or Die convention and probably host a panel.' NO! He was far from me. Thinking of awkwardness... I let him go. Until...

"The guy beside me left his seat and Ambeth Ocampo sat beside me!! I swear the trip from Ortigas until Buendia has been the longest. How would I approach him!? How would I greet him!? TAT;; I was breathing like a stupid fan girl wondering how the heck would I tell him 'SIR! *SIGE NA! PUNTA NA KAYO NG ROD-CON PARA MASAYA!!*' I looked through my bags to see if I had ROD-CON paraphernalia but I only had the shelves!! GEEEEEEEEEEEEEH!! TAT;; My God! He might think I'm some stalker stalking him on the train to breathe on him 'GOOOO TO ROD-CON!!!'

"While I struggled through the whole train ride while he sat beside me with his pretty leather brown bag which had his MAC[intosh] in it (I SWEAR!! I just had to look what a guy like him had in his bag!! It was a MAC! And his bag was Kenneth COLE!! DAMMIT!!!) I was thinking of various scenarios to approach him.

"Scenario 1:

"K: Oh! Are you Mr. Ocampo?

"A: Yes?

"K: Ah hi! I'm K, a history major from Ateneo. It might be a lil awkward meeting you in this train.

"A: ...

"K: Ah! Sir, I was wondering if you're free on Feb 3-4.

"A: Maybe, why?

"K: Well (insert ROD-CON DETAILS) and we were hoping that maybe NHI would be interested to participate in the panels.

"A: Oh! Do you have a dossier of sorts?

"K: ...

"A: ...

"[FAILED! MOMENT OF AWKWARDNESS!!]

"Scenario 2:

"K: Oh! Mr. Ocampo?

"A: Yes?

"K: Hi! I'm K, one of the history majors in Ateneo. Glad to see you back in Manila.

"A: Well... I've been back a long time already.

"[FAILED! MOMENT OF AWKWARDNESSSSSS!!]

"Scenario 3

" K: Mr Ocampo!

"A: Yes?

"K: Hi! I'm K...

"A: (stands up...) Sorry, this is my stop. Maybe next time.

"[FAILED!! MOMENT OF FREAKINESSSSS!!]

"My god!! My heart was thumping so fast that yeah, more stupid even was I didn't even get the courage to talk to him until he left for his station. He even greeted the other teacher in Spanish and left. TAT;; Such a cool man. But yeah... my god. It was such a perfect chance!! A PERFECT CHANCE AND I SCREWED IT UP!! Kharma was totally misaligned!! Sorry Tin. m(_ _)m lol. I guess we have to go through the red tape now. > <;;"

I would've gladly joined Read or Die if they asked or e-mailed. So I left a comment on the blog and identified myself but then "Miss K" (which is the same way Rizal referred to his first love Segunda Katigbak in his juvenile diary) thought someone was pulling her leg and trashed me online. Later on she apologized, but still failed to invite me to Read or Die.

This amusing blog experience illustrates the challenge facing the historian of the 21st century. We have so much information going round, but most of it is not on paper and will be lost to history.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Beyond the frats

VISIT UP DILIMAN'S WEBSITE AND YOU WILL FIND A photograph of women students in black, carrying placards that read, "Justice for Cris." They're referring to Cris Anthony Mendez, the latest casualty in what is suspected to be fraternity hazing.

As we move into our centennial, people at UP are asking, "Why do we still have these frats?"

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I'd suggest the problem isn't just a matter of frats. We may have to look at the tensions, the fault lines in UP's organizational culture and the potentially lethal combination of factors like class and gender that make the frats so explosive.

There's no lack of research to show that Filipinos have a high need for affiliation and that we get this mainly from smaller groups and organizations. As the organizations grow and build their hierarchies, power struggles emerge and splits occur.

Key to survival

UP is no exception. A freshman comes in and is dazzled by the alphabet soup of organizations, with something from everyone, from animé to zoology. The organizations work hard at recruitment with each new school year, sometimes with excessive zeal. Some departments, including my own (anthropology), actually had to step in and handle our own freshmen orientation because we felt the organizations were becoming too aggressive with their membership campaigns.

Many freshmen do sign up with one or several organizations. Beyond social affiliation, the organizations are seen as a key to survival in the university. UP can be intimidating—all the more so for a young student from a middle-class background and from some small town. They'll be quick to join an organization, usually a regional one to touch base with "*kababayan*" and one for the academic course they're enrolled in. The latter is more of a knowledge network, getting tips on what might come out in exams and choosing teachers (preferably the ones who give high grades, I am told) and for borrowing lecture notes and textbooks. Some organizations will also organize tutorials and review classes, and in this high-tech age, e-groups to keep members informed about important developments.

I wouldn't underestimate the economic angle here, especially if the student is in UP for the long haul, for courses like law and medicine. This is where the frats, and to some extent, the sororities, come in. Frats have declined in popularity among upper-class Filipinos, but are still able to ride on past glory, mainly counting the rich, the powerful, the famous and infamous among their alumni: Ferdinand Marcos for Upsilon, for example, or Juan Ponce Enrile for Sigma Rho. These are alpha male achievers held up to emulate, and for students from the underclass, they represent a world that could be theirs as well.

This is where machismo comes in. Frats represent a testosterone-driven culture that can be appealing to young males from more traditional backgrounds. The frat rituals are actually part of machismo allure; some of these students come from public high schools and communities with very brutal hazing as well (ironically, copied from the Greek-letter frats which they associated with the upper class).

'Machismo' turns lethal when combined with class. The wealthier fratmen are not about to beat some neophyte from their own class. (There aren't that many joining now, and if they do, now, now, we can't beat up the congressman's or the general's little boy, so hey, see that one from the province?) Fortunate are they if the initiation consists of running errands for their frat masters, or stripping down for the Oblation Run. And as the neophytes get beaten up, they're picking up the frat's sacred tradition: deep in their subconscious, they know they can get back the following year, by beating up new lower-class neophytes.

Cults?

The frats represent an extreme in local organizational culture, with a feudal core that emphasizes conformity with organizational mates and obedience to "superiors" and that can be someone just a year ahead of you. I've had to deal even with students who end up taking courses they don't want to take simply because their organization heads told them to.

"*Walang iwanan*" is a phrase I hear often. On the surface, it sounds noble, with its sense of solidarity and not leaving anyone behind. In reality, it smacks of a dangerous herd instinct. Throw in some Machiavellian student leaders, maybe even faculty members advising the organization, and you have a cult in the making.

The pragmatism and survival instincts are there, certainly, and some are smarter than others at maneuvering their way through the organizational minefields, but much more needs to be done by administrators and teaching staff. My anthropology faculty actually had to meet to discuss these problems late last year and we've made it a point now to be very explicit in telling the freshmen that they are not obliged to join any association, not even the one of anthropology.

Walk the talk though, I tell my young faculty. Be on the lookout for students from more disadvantaged backgrounds who will need part-time work to earn extra money to get the textbooks and meet living expenses. The key here is letting them know they won't need to be forced to join an organization just for the "connections." Internet access, which the university provides to all students, provides new opportunities here. There are e-groups for undergrads and graduate students, and each of the subjects I teach has its own website so students can access review guides and lecture summaries.

Of course, the Internet can never replace face-to-face interactions and our department undergraduate and graduate advisers have made it clear to the students that they can seek advice whenever they need, but, and this is an important but, without creating a patron-client relationship.

It's an uphill battle. I make no claims to having all the answers, but believe it's time to ask the right questions, too. And as we do that, educational institutions must be guided by equity, providing all students with more or less equal access to social support and networks, so they won't need to feel obligated to join an organization. If and when they do, it should be to pursue a focused and shared interest, whether in indie films or genetics.

Finally, as teachers and parents, we will have to ask ourselves some tough questions. Do we nag too much, warning students against frats and *barkada*, yet leaving untouched the questions of machismo and blind conformity and all the crippling, murdering, parochial and feudal values of Philippine society? In this age of the Filipino diaspora, we need to better prepare our students for the world out there. These will be young Filipinos who can build lifelong loyalties and friendships, who will be remembered not just for an infectious sense of humor and conviviality, but also for fierce independence of mind and of spirit.

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Telling the truth has a price

"YOU CAN'T HANDLE THE truth!" was the famous line of renowned actor Jack Nicholson in the award-winning movie "A Few Good Men." Perhaps no one can handle the truth but, at least, the truth can be admitted in all candor and fairness. But who is telling the truth? The people in the government or the masses?

When asked by a reporter for comment about the doubts and disbelief of the "texters" during the press conference announcing a 7.5-percent growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the second quarter of 2007, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo retorted: "Are you saying that our statistics … the NSCB … people are liars?" According to her, massive infrastructure is what's revving up the economy. ("GMA shows famous temper," INQUIRER, 8/31/07)

And there they go again, statistics and nothing but statistics. I cannot help but think that the "growth" is only for the rich and the famous. Who do you think benefited from the "massive infrastructure"—the masses who have no goods to transport, or the project proponents, approving authorities and contractors?

In this country, members of the Cabinet and government officials are forced by circumstances to submit only positive reports, lest they suffer the wrath of those who call the shots. Let us look back at how an official of the Department of Education was reprimanded for giving a truthful report on the lack of classrooms and textbooks in public schools. That was the price of telling the truth which cannot be "handled," controlled and manipulated. No matter how it is said or translated, the truth will always come out.

Many times, reports have to be "window-dressed" to suit the delusions of the powerful who think their constituents are all nincompoops. And that's the most insulting part of being mere subjects—to be treated like stupid by those who are possessed with a messianic complex. And so, if one wants to be qualified as a member of the "House of Lords," he must first be a master of window-dressing, illusion or magic.

But it's always better to just keep working honestly, to do good without so much publicity—by doing so, your efforts and accomplishments will come to be recognized with greater impact.

In other words, don't ask for respect, work for it.

—ALAN ANTONIO S. MAZO,
180 Yandoc St., Baguio City

LETTERS

Envious Fred Lim

THAILAND IS ONE OF THE MOST tourist-friendly countries in Asia, making it one of the most preferred destinations for Europeans and Americans and its baht among the most stable currencies in the whole of Asia.

Baywalk's "gimik" spots were a lot more decent compared to Bangkok's rows of girlie bars, yet Baywalk attracted lots of foreigners and decent Filipinos alike in search of clean fun.

Not many people are complaining, but what Mayor Alfredo Lim cannot accept is that the credit for transforming that stretch of Roxas Boulevard from a mugger's domain during Lim's previous stint as Manila mayor to Baywalk, the tourist attraction, goes to former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. This reality is too much for Lim to bear.

—TONY DIAZ,
adiaz3691@yahoo.com.ph

Farmers seek solutions to problems

IN JUNE 2000, THE BULACAN Farmers Action Council (BFAC) and the Regional Farmers Action Council (RFAC) of Region 3 issued an open letter denouncing the government's apparent insensitivity to the needs of millions of Filipino farmers.

At the time, the government had just increased its support price for palay from P9 to P10 per kilogram. Although that move was well appreciated, we felt that it was not enough to uplift the lives of rice farmers. Sadly, the government support price has remained at P10 per kilogram until now.

As we stated seven years ago, the palay support price is not enough to cover our farm expenses, such as the rising cost of fertilizers and insecticides. Aside from this, there is also the glaring reality that both the farmers and the government do not have enough post-harvest facilities to properly handle our local produce and minimize losses—especially in the wake of strong typhoons or El Niño and La Niña, which is expected later this year.

Although we are grateful to the government for its support price, we would like the officials concerned to give us concrete solutions to the following problems:

1. Insufficient modern certified and registered seeds;
2. Abnormal weather disturbances and the ill effects of El Niño and La Niña;
3. Snails and other insects destroying our crops;
4. The wrong policy of distributing imported rice during palay-harvest seasons;
5. The Department of Agriculture's non-consultation with the Provincial Farmers Action Council in policy formulation.

—SIMEON T. SIOSON,
president,
Bulacan Farmers Action Council,
c/o rce@nfa.gov.ph

Why not British military training for RP soldiers?

THE HIGH CASUALTY RATE SUFFERED LATELY by the Armed Forces in Mindanao affected me deeply. I come from a family of soldiers: my father fought during World War II; so did uncles and in-laws. And two generals in active service are relatives.

It appalls me every time I read about soldiers unnecessarily dying in the Mindanao conflict due to defective arms and ammunition, not to mention the lack of communications facilities. Because of this, I have always wondered how really effective the training being given our soldiers is. Besides, the military chain of command seems to be flawed, a perception given some credence by the relief of some commanders in Basilan and Zamboanga.

I suggest that the Armed Forces adopt a new system of training, particularly for the Marines who are the usual front liners. Effective as the American system may be, it wouldn't do us harm if we tried other systems. That of the British could be a model for discipline and camaraderie.

All members of our Armed Forces should read the book "Above All Courage" by Max Arthur. The bestseller contains individual accounts of decorated British soldiers who fought in the Falklands War in 1982. The British troops were outnumbered three to one. They fought many times in total darkness and in below-zero temperatures, while the Argentinians were fully equipped and supplied.

In many instances, badly wounded British soldiers, some of them already with severed arms and legs, insisted on staying or going back to the battlefronts or going to the aid of more badly wounded comrades by holding the "drips" for them. And helicopter pilots flew in pitch-black darkness and during violent storms just to be able to evacuate casualties or deliver much-needed ammunition and other logistics, while Argentine jet fighters and missiles hunted them like hungry hawks. Despite the insurmountable odds, the "blokes" still managed to win the war, thus winning the admiration not only of their countrymen but also of all freedom-loving people of the world.

Arthur attributes the success of the British in Falklands to training, courage and camaraderie. Even while being transported to the Falklands, they never tired of training even in limited spaces aboard ships, basing their strategies and tactics on the latest intelligence reports and up-to-date maps.

No doubt, the Filipino soldier is one of the bravest, if not the bravest, in the world as proven during World War II and the Korean War. But British courage, according to the author, was attributed to their training.

—FROILAN C. ANTONIO,
27 Moldero St.,
BF Homes, Quezon City

GSIS: No abuse, just following due process

IN HIS LETTER, EDWARD FELIX M. DONATO said that the Government Service Insurance System abused its power when it filed administrative and criminal charges against members of the Commission on Audit's Special Audit Team or SAT. (INQUIRER, 8/25/07)

This is a very unfair statement. The GSIS never intended to intimidate anyone. Truth is, prior to the filing of these cases, the GSIS made several attempts to explain its side on the so-called SAT findings, only to find these explanations falling on deaf ears. In filing cases against the SAT, the GSIS merely exercised its right to be heard, by seeking remedies available under the law. We think it is unreasonable to call one abusive when one is only following due process.

Also, it is true our system may not be a perfect system, but then again, no system is. But what we can assure the public is that the errors we read and hear about are really isolated cases. In fact, the GSIS has processed a total of P914,150,821 in benefits for our 183,575 pensioners from January to August of 2007 alone. Evidently, the complaints we get—although we are addressing them—make up hardly one percent of the pension claims the GSIS handles.

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA,
vice president, Public Affairs Office,
Government Service Insurance System,
Financial Center, Pasay City

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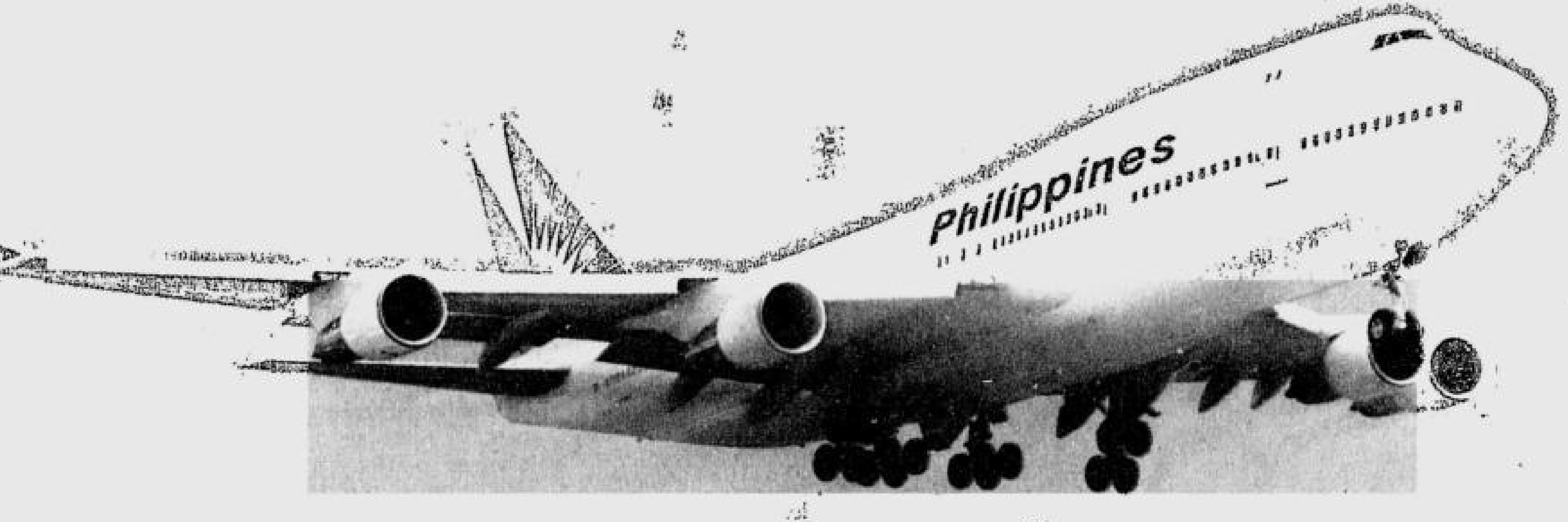

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'The community will decide on Ifugao terraces'

After three years of absence from local politics, Teodoro Baguilat Jr. returned as governor of Ifugao after the May elections. But the years when the 40-year-old bachelor had been away from politics were spent for his "other loves"—promoting Ifugao culture and identity through the Save the Ifugao Terraces Movement (Sitmo) and his media advocacy (he studied journalism at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City).

Baguilat believes that his being a politician (mayor of Kiangan town from 1995 to 2001, Ifugao governor from 2001 to 2004) and a "development worker" will help him serve his province well.

The official sat with the Inquirer Northern Luzon for a roundtable discussion on Aug. 14 and talked about his programs to save the rice terraces, his fight against the illegal numbers game "jueteng," and the kind of political culture he would espouse during his administration. Excerpts:

IFUGAO Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr.
EV ESPIRITU

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF the province when you came in? Did you do a major house cleaning?

House cleaning *kami—yung mga* bidding, *yung mga* projects *na na*-award without the proper bidding processes, without the certificates of availability of funds, midnight appointees.

I would not want to talk ill of the previous governor but, really, the systems had bogged down … *kaya nga ito ang inaayos namin* with our seminars on procurement … *itong* procurement *lang medyo ang hirap nang hawakan 'yan ng* LGUs (local government units), even down to the smallest centavo, they have to be bid out.

It's a total change of the political culture.

What are your plans for the rice terraces?

We're trying to fine-tune the master plan crafted by a Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) grant, and this is the reason they are still in the list of endangered [heritage] sites is because of the benchmarks set by Unesco.

So we need to come up with our own benchmarks … given time and [considering] our resources. After that, we bring the plan to the community level. Let them decide: *Ano ba ang* vision *nila* for the rice terraces? Do you want to preserve it or do you want to convert it?

No matter how good your plans are, if the community, if the families owning these rice terraces would not accept it (preservation program), it's useless. You'll repair the terraces, but who's going to stay and maintain them? So it has to be a family decision.

Dati kasi ang aking advocacy identity, culture … to preserve terraces. *Ngayon, iba na.* You cannot stem the outmigration. It's the biggest problem actually. It is also [due to] economic [reason that] people are going out.

Ang advocacy *ko na lang* is at least *isa man lang sa mga anak ng* family that owns the terraces would stay behind … Provide them their basic needs and give them economic opportunity.

What can the provincial government do or provide to stop outmigration and save the terraces?

Economic opportunities … organic agriculture, marketing of the *tinawon* rice, tourism, farm businesses … and the basic needs—education, good health … and *banatan mo na lang* advocacy on identity and culture.

In the meantime, you ask also those who went out to subsidize their own kin, *kasi kung tutuusin* pride and property *ito* … ancestral property. And government is spending for the maintenance of ancestral properties, technically.

Bibigyan kita ng pera para i-repair *mo yung sarili mong* rice terraces. At least *sana man lang mahikayat yung mga nagpunta* abroad, *na medyo may kaya na mag*-invest *naman kayo sa sarili ninyong mga* irrigation system, maintenance [of the terraces] … *kung ganoon sana ang pag iisip ng* every Ifugao family that has rice terraces, *hindi na tayo masyadong mahihirapan* in terms of resources.

What if they decide that they would just get out?

It has to be a family decision, and the family decision also becomes a community decision. *Yung isang* program *namin*, the community-based land use, we ask the community to decide. So *ano ba ang itsura ng* area *nyo ngayon?* … *Eto yung mga* rice terraces, watershed, bahay. Two years from now, 20 years from now, *ano ang gusto n'yong mangyari?* Do you still want to maintain a portion as rice terraces? If the community says, "Well, *gusto naming gawin* potato farm, vegetable garden," then decide.

Kasi kung sasabihin mo, "Let the community decide," what if the community decides to give up the terraces? So, *wala na?*

Here is where we come in, where the Sitmo comes in, the LGU … We have to provide the social preparation. Short of saying *ito ang maganda, pero nasa sa inyo na iyan kung gusto n'yo 'yan o hindi.*

What is the out-migration pattern?

[Many go to] Quirino, one-third of Quirino is Ifugao; to Nueva Vizcaya. Some work in the offices … One time I was asking a group of students, *mahalaga pa ba sa inyo ang* rice terraces? [They all agreed]. *Sino ang gustong maiwan sa* rice terraces? *Wala. (Laughter)*

Are there groups or NGOs from other countries interested in adopting the rice terraces?

Ang gusto ko pa rin is take the advocacy to the community. *Parang galing sa labas ang interes, sa loob wala. Yung* heritage site is where communities are staying there. *Hindi naman siya monumento, simbahan or* Tubbataha Reef *na ang* residents *mo mga isda. Tao mismo andun sa* [rice terraces]. In effect, *sila ang may hawak ng* destiny *ng* rice terraces. My job is just to convince them to accept the responsibility of maintaining the rice terraces.

What is your project on indigenous knowledge?

We now have a school with Iscaf (Ifugao State College of Agriculture and Forestry in Lamut town), a pilot school … We're offering courses on different forms of indigenous knowledge (IK), our project in Sitmo with Iscaf and the Unesco associations in Japan.

The different forms of indigenous knowledge, like terracing, native house construction, traditional rice cycle, the tradition of forest management [will be taught]… We're targeting the sciences, crafts… and *ang magtuturo itong mga mumbaki* (indigenous knowledge holders).

For instance, a mason (*nagtu-tuping*) will teach, maybe, engineering students how to make *tuping* (riprap or stonewalling). A farmer who knows about the rice cycle and rituals will teach agriculture students of Iscaf.

Ang outlook is to develop a new core of IK holders who can also teach.

How would you stop "jueteng"?

It's a given that there is jueteng … If we can stamp it and eradicate it, it shows that you're in command of the province because the only way jueteng is going to stop is if the executives and the PNP (Philippine National Police) are in one direction.

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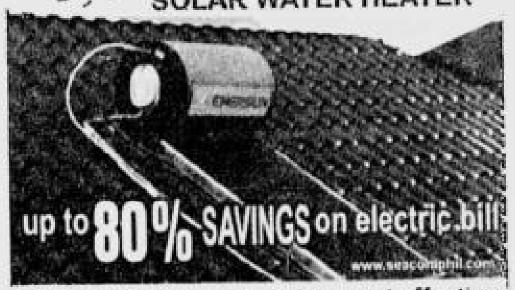

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THANK YOU MADAME PRESIDENT

In behalf of the Candabeños, we would like to convey our heartfelt gratitude and admiration to Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for the significant and enormous support of her administration to the growth and development of the Municipality of Candaba, Pampanga.

Through the support of Her excellency and the Department of Agriculture headed by Honorable Secretary Arthur Yap, Candaba has managed to transform itself to 1st Class Municipality.

With the continuing support of your administration, we envision Candaba with an area of 32,000 hectares as the next food basket not only for Central Luzon but also for Metro Manila aside from being the major exporter of agri-aquacultural produce such as melons, corn, vegetables, tilapia and exotic koi fish.

We are also happy to inform that after two decades, melon and watermelon are back in this agricultural town through the joint efforts of the Local Government Unit and the Department of Agriculture.

Candaba, once the hotbed of rebellion in Central Luzon, is now also a home of peace-loving people under the current peace and order situation.

We are optimistic that on the days ahead, Candaba would become one of the fastest growing municipalities in the country through the active participation and involvement of its people in local governance.

This is also highly doable through the effort of the national government in empowering the local government in the implementation of programs and projects intended for countryside development as stipulated in the Local Government Code of 1991. Through the direct transfer of funds from national to local government, projects and programs are attuned to the needs of the people and the communities as well as great number of unemployed in the area are given enough employment.

And most of all, through the full assistance of your administration in terms of augmentation and support to locally initiated agri-infra projects and other developmental endeavors, aside from its environmental potentials and uniqueness as a swamp and home of migratory birds.

We believe that all your concerns and full support to the plight of the Candabenos will result to the upliftment of their quality of life.

Maraming Salamat po Mahal na Pangulo.

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(Sgd.) Vice Mayor Bienvenido Gatus
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(Sgd.) Coun. Adriano V. Gulapa
(Sgd.) Coun. Oscar S. Parungao
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(Sgd.) Coun. Ernesto S. Manarang
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(Sgd.) Coun. Raquel L. Foz
(Sgd.) SK. Chair Christian Diaz

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Barit
(Sgd.) Raymundo P. Trinidad
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(Sgd.) Aldrin Veneracion
Visal Sto. Cristo
(Sgd.) Mariano M. Cunanan
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Candaba Parish Priest
(Sgd.) Victor Martin
Vice President, Council of Elders
(Sgd.) Dolores Dizon
Adviser, Parish Pastoral Council
(Sgd.) Danilo Tangcuangco
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President,
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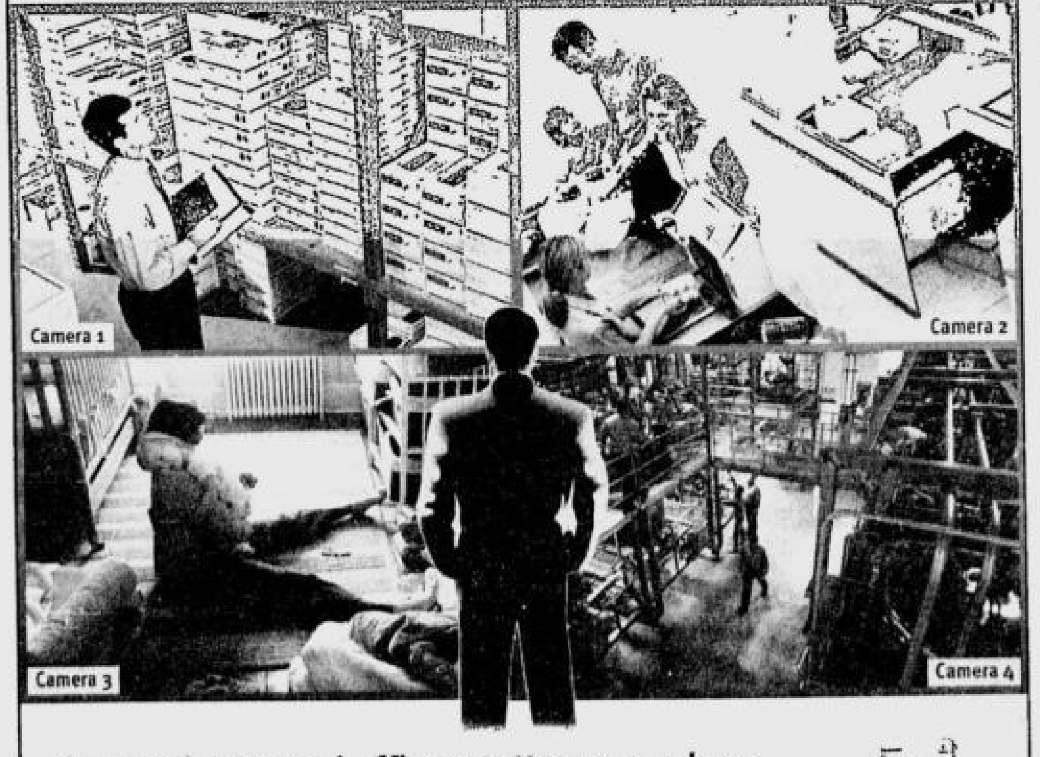

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Mayors want more from quarry funds

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE PAMPANGA MAYORS' LEAGUE HAS demanded bigger shares of revenues for sand-rich towns and villages and sought stronger regulatory powers over the quarry industry.

The PML made the moves two months after the administration of Gov. Eddie Panlilio, a Catholic priest, has collected an average of P1 million daily instead of the P80,700 daily in 2006 under former Gov. Mark Lapid. Collections from July 2 to Sept. 10 reached P51.3 million.

The PML, through its president, Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda, sought the changes through proposed Ordinance No. 172. It wants an "equitable distribution of shares of fees/taxes imposed by the province of Pampanga for the extraction of quarry materials and for other purposes."

Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao and members of the provincial board tackled the planned measure in its regular session on Sept. 10. The PML filed it on Aug. 29.

In the letter, Pineda invoked Section 138 of the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act 7160) to subject the entire P300 fee, which represents P150 for administrative fee and P150 as sand tax for every truckload of sand, to a sharing scheme of 30-30-40 percent for the province, towns and villages, respectively.

That means for each truckload, the province and towns stand to get P90 each and the villages, P120, instead of the P45-P45-P60 sharing.

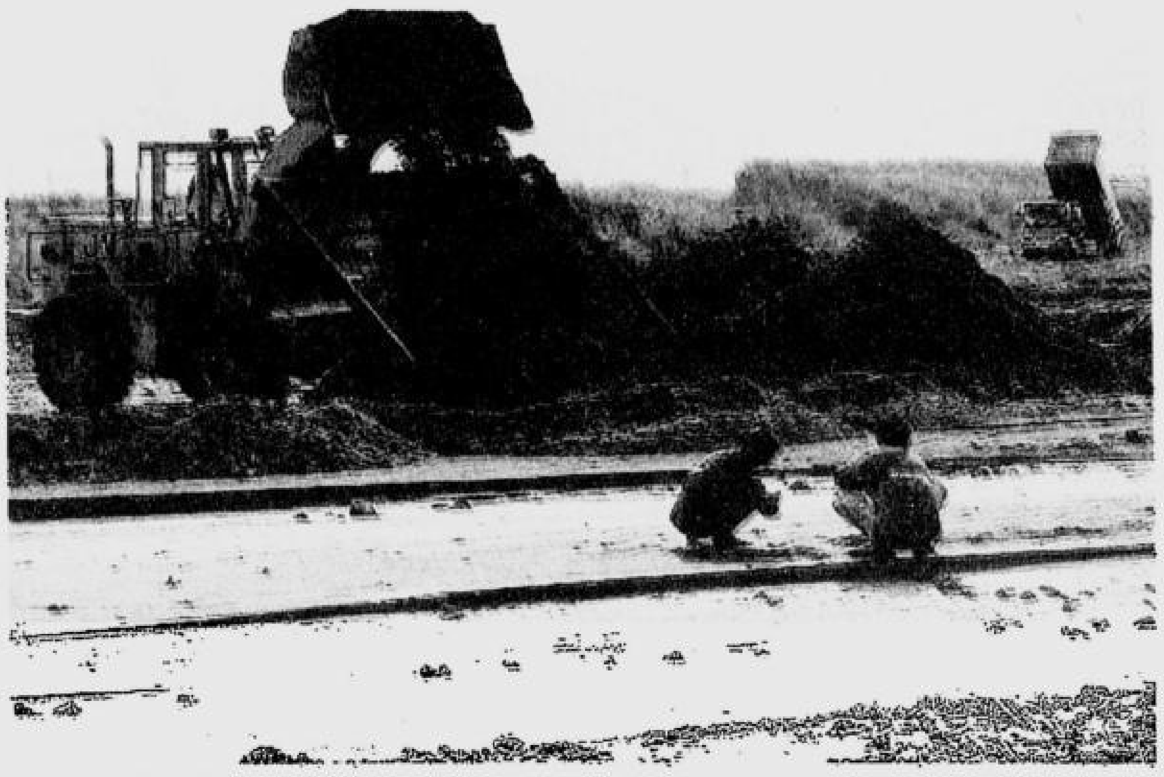
The capitol's share of P195 (P45 plus P150 in administrative fee) was "utterly unfair" and "highly disproportionate," the PML said in the draft ordinance. It said it wanted the P150 administrative fee "abolished."

Pineda said the administrative fee "in effect reduces the [local governments'] share in the proceeds of the tax on sand, gravel and other quarry resources."

He told the board that under Section 138, the "province may levy and collect not more than 10 percent of the fair market value in the locality per cubic meter" of quarry resources. The P300, he said, was collected since the time of former governor, now Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid.

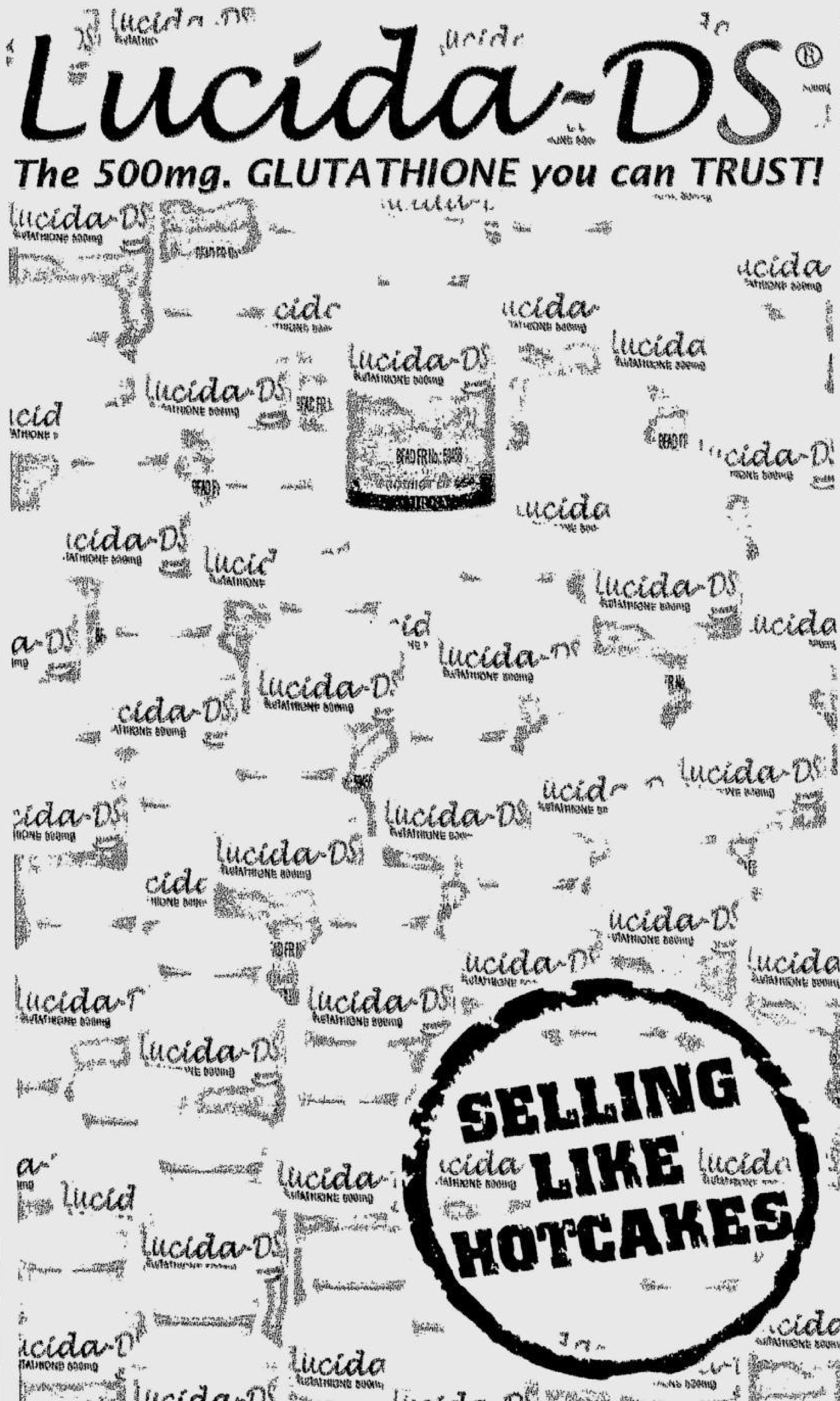
An INQUIRER review of documents on the quarry industry showed it was the Natural Resources Development Corp. of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that started to impose that amount in 1999 when former President Joseph Estrada ordered a takeover until 2001 due to alleged irregularities in collection under Lapid. NRDC gave P80 as share.

The board, voting 7-3, rejected Guaio's proposal to make the NRDC the collecting arm of the capitol. Before Congress, the PML asserted the authority of the provincial government to collect taxes. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*



QUARRYING in Pampanga's lahar areas.

TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON



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ROUNDUP

10,000 devotees expected in Lipa

LIPA CITY—Now on its fourth year, the National Day of Peace pilgrimage today at the San Sebastian Cathedral and Mt. Carmel Church is expected to draw at least 10,000 devotees around the country.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Proclamation 1362 on Aug. 15, which officially declared Sept. 12 as the National Day of Prayer for Peace and Reconciliation.

The day coincides with the 59th anniversary of the Marian apparition to Sr. Teresita Castillo of the Carmelite Convent here.

Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles will officially launch the Pueblo Amante de Maria Mariological Society of the Philippines, the first group of theologians and Marian devotees established in the country.

Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Wharf firm exec slain in Davao

DAVAO CITY—Two motorcycle-riding men shot and killed the personnel manager of the Terminal Facilities and Services Corp. (Tefasco), a private wharf here, in Barangay Buhisan, Tibungco District on Sept. 9.

Bella Tajanlangit-Piedad, 51, wife of Panabo City Councilor Alan Piedad, was on her way to Tefasco in Ilang, Tibungco when shot by two men.

Police could still not say the motive of the killing.

Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao

Cops arrest drug pusher

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A 28-year-old man listed as among the most notorious drug pushers in the Calabarzon Region has been arrested in a police checkpoint in San Nicolas, Batangas Sept. 4, police said.

Batangas police director Senior Supt. David Quimio identified the arrested suspect as Erick Caringal, a resident of San Nicolas town.

Found in Caringal's possession were a .45 cal. pistol, a .38 cal. revolver and shabu. ***Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon***

Drug pusher gunned down

LUCENA CITY—Unidentified gunmen killed a known drug pusher in Tayabas, Quezon on Sept. 1.

A police report said Efren Beatriz, 42, resident of Barangay Lita, Tayabas was on his way home in a Honda Wave motorcycle when at least three suspects riding in a green Toyota Revo shot him.

The suspects sped off toward Lucena City. Beatriz suffered several fatal bullet wounds in the body that caused his immediate death.

Aside from the recovery at the crime scene of nine shells and four slugs from .45-cal. pistol, police investigators found several drug paraphernalia from Beatriz.

Police said Beatriz was previously involved in illegal drugs and had just been released from Quezon provincial jail on drug charges two months ago. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon***

4th most wanted man arrested

DAVAO CITY—Police arrested Calabarzon's fourth most wanted criminal in Jose Abad Santos, Davao del Sur around 5:30 a.m. on Sept. 1.

Donato Panganiban, 47, a native of Morong, Rizal, had been in hiding for 12 years after he was tagged behind the death of a police officer in Rizal in 1995.

Chief Insp. Royina Garma-Vilela, provincial officer of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Team (CIDT) in Davao del Sur, said Panganiban was hired as personal driver of a mayoral candidate in Laguna in 1995 when he, along with a Dennis Palad, shot and killed a police officer.

She did not identify the slain police officer but said Panganiban took his pistol and sold it for P6,000. ***Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao***

'Ukay-ukay' seized in Davao

DAVAO CITY—At least four container vans of used clothes, commonly known as "ukay-ukay," were confiscated by authorities at the Sasa Wharf here on Sept. 7.

Undersecretary Antonio Villar, head of the Presidential Anti Smuggling Group (PASG), who led the raid, said the contraband came from Malaysia and was worth at least P3 million.

Villar's group was joined by the Bureau of Customs in seizing the contraband, which consisted of shoes, bags and hangers.

The smuggled goods, he said, were consigned to JDA Marketing here.

Villar said charges were now being prepared against the importers.

Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao

Anti-robbery handbook out

DAGUPAN CITY—After studying the activities of the Acetylene Gang, which robs banks and pawnshops, the Ilocos regional police have come up with a handbook on how to counteract the criminal activities.

The 21-page handbook, prepared by the Regional Anti-Bank Robbery Special Operations Task Force and the Regional Intelligence Division in Camp Florendo in San Fernando City, was launched on Sept. 5 to mark Crime Prevention Week.

Senior Supt. Noli Taliño, the handbook's editor, said the handbook contains tips on countering the modus operandi of various syndicates involved in bank and pawnshop robberies especially the Acetylene Gang.

The gang usually bores holes on the roofs of buildings using acetylene torches. Taliño said the handbook will serve as guide for the local police, owners and managers of banks and pawnshops and other establishments. ***Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon***

US role as Mindanao peacekeeper sought

COTABATO CITY—THE UNITED STATES could play a vital role in the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) by turning its forces in Mindanao into peacekeepers, similar to the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team (IMT), a Singapore-based Maguindanaoan security research analyst said.

In his report posted Sept. 5 on the website (http://www.rsis.edu.sg) of the Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, a research facility on security in Asia, Taharudin Piang Ampatuan said American troops could become effective as peacekeepers instead of their current role with the Philippine military.

US forces in Mindanao have been training their Filipino counterparts on antiterror and are largely deployed in Basilan and Sulu.

Ampatuan, a native of Maguindanao, said the US role could complement the efforts of Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which by "growing public sentiments," has allegedly lost some credibility in peace mediation.

"Proof of this growing sentiment was the late (MILF) chairman Hashim Salamat's reported letter in 2000 to President Bush, indicating the willingness of the MILF to welcome US mediation," he said.

In supporting his analysis that the OIC has become a non-effective peace mediator, Ampatuan cited the case of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

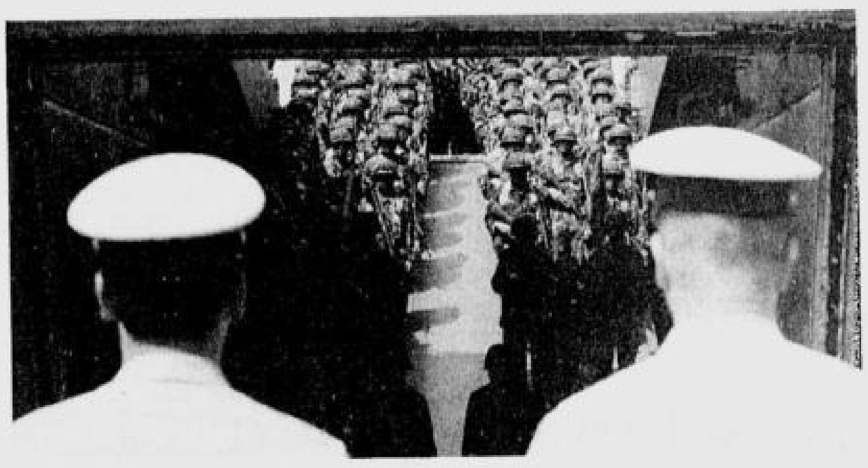
Despite the signing of the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLF, Ampatuan said the recent hostilities in Sulu and Basilan, involving some MNLF combatants, were proof that the OIC's effort has failed.

The problem, he said, was the inability of the OIC to play its role effectively.

He said the OIC has repeatedly postponed talks aimed at ironing out kinks in the 1996 peace agreement, which resulted in frustration among former rebels.

"This development not only threatens to undermine the 11-year-old peace treaty between government and MNLF but also compromises the wider gains of counterterrorism efforts that are supported by United States Forces in the Southern Philippines," he said.

Ampatuan said the OIC's failure to iron out kinks in the 1996 peace agreement was being taken advantaged of by Moro militants affiliated with the Jemaah Islamiyah and al-Qaida. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*



MARINES arrive for deployment to Basilan.
REM ZAMORA

East Visayas farmers plant ahead of sked

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—FARMERS in at least three provinces in Eastern Visayas have started planting rice for a "third cropping" by December, the Department of Agriculture regional office here reported.

Leo Cañeda, regional DA executive director, disclosed that farmers from Leyte, Biliran and Samar have been planting "early maturing rice variety for the quick turnaround (QTA) program so they would be able to harvest before the end of the year."

Cañeda said the region has targeted for the QTA program some 3,000 hectares of rice land, which could produce around 11,000 to 12,000 metric tons of palay.

The recent long dry spell, particularly in Luzon, has resulted in the shortfall of rice production so the agriculture department had to look to Visayas and Mindanao to offset the extended dry spell's adverse effect.

Cañeda has likened the QTA to "a third cropping season," which is not the general practice in the region.

Normally, the region has two cropping seasons—the dry season and the wet season from May to October and from November to April.

"Farmers can plant until Sept. 15 and be assured of a harvest before the end of the year," Cañeda said.

He said the DA might also tap Southern Leyte to ensure that the region attained its QTA goal.

He said prospects are "very bright" that the region would overshoot its rice production target of 892,000 metric tons this year. The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, in a report, projected that the region might produce 941,000 mt this year.

Mayor asks DoF to probe town's treasurer on funds

URBIZTONDO, PANGASINAN—MAYOR Ernesto Balolong of this town asked the Department of Finance to investigate the municipal treasurer whom he accused of fund mismanagement and insubordination.

In a complaint affidavit submitted to the DoF, Balolong said municipal treasurer Loida Cancino transferred funds from one of the seven accounts at the Land Bank of the Philippines, just before the Commission on Audit audited the account "to give the accounts a semblance of deposits being made on them."

He also claimed that Cancino was not regularly depositing local revenues collected by the town.

"The minimal and unexplainably scarce deposits in the bank give rise to the conclusion that she has used such funds for personal purposes," Balolong said.

But Cancino, in a telephone interview, called Balolong's complaint as "political harassment" and said she welcomed the investigation by the DoF because "all I need is (to undergo) due process of law."

She said she was being harassed by Balolong because she refused to allow payment for his inaugural party. "I advised him that such expenses should be personal, but he said I should just wait for a memorandum from him," she said.

Balolong also said Cancino allowed excessive disbursements from the funds of the office of the mayor during the past administration, and that when he assumed office on June 30, the money for the third and fourth quarters had been spent. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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Quezon City	Commonwealth	Commonwealth Ave., Bgy. Commonwealth, QC	Wilkedo "Boy" Agn Sr.	428-4512
	Mega Q-Mart	Edsa Bgy. E. Rodriguez, Cubao	Consolo de Guzman	440-9332/412-1622
	Oriental Market	1182, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	Marvic Infante	456-9495
Pasig	Mutya ng Pasig	Market Ave., Caruncho Complex	Catherine Tech	641-0434/640-1665
Valenzuela	KADIWA Center	Km. 60, McArthur Highway, Malanday, Valenzuela	Ernesto Lindo	294-9880/09175745293
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CHEd tells review centers to abide by rules

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) in the Cordillera has urged the region's review centers to comply with its new guidelines to continue their operations beyond November this year.

Dr. Freddie Bernal, acting CHEd regional director, said the reminder is especially for nursing review centers in light of the leakage that marred the June 2006 nursing licensure examinations.

The controversy, which became the subject of a Senate investigation, dragged the name of a review center in Baguio City.

"The number of students who take up nursing is increasing and so is the number of review centers," Bernal said.

He said the region has 38 review centers and 19 of them are for nursing.

President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 566 on Sept. 8, 2006 directing the CHEd to come up with regulations to govern the operation of review centers and other similar entities.

Under the CHEd's implementing rules and regulations, all review centers are required to establish a formal link with accredited higher institutions or to form their own consortia before they could operate.

The rules gave review centers a grace period of one year to complete their tie up or their conversion into consortia.

The grace period would end this November and the CHEd expects all review centers to have complied, Bernal said.

"The requirements were meant to ensure the quality of review services rendered and to avoid substandard and unethical practices," he said.

CHEd records showed that there were 98,115 college students enrolled in the region's 36 public and private colleges and universities for school year 2006-2007.

Out of the number of enrollees, 12,937 students graduated in the same school year.

For the same period, the region had 28,867 nursing students who were enrolled in the region's 15 nursing schools, including the 2,585 students who graduated.

The schools with the most nursing enrollees are found in Baguio City—University of Baguio (6,831), Pines City Colleges (5,859), University of the Cordilleras (5,243), Baguio Central University (3,741) and Saint Louis University (3,598).

He said the tie-up required of review centers must be with "recognized, respected and accredited higher institution of learning" to ensure the quality of reviewers.

The consortia, he said, would give the review centers a more credible "juridical personality" and a more aggressive delivery of review services. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

NEW nurses take their professional oaths. REUTERS

2 gov't agencies headed for collision over road plan

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—TWO GOVERNMENT offices in the Cordillera may yet collide after one of them declared as geologically hazardous a road section in Kapangan town that the other agency believed was safe to pour in P20 million for repair.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) experts said a 4-km portion of the diversion road in Barangay Nalbengan lies along a fault line and is found in unstable ground.

The findings raised questions among board members in Monday's session here as to why the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) insisted to concrete portions of the road.

Board Member Juan Nazarro Jr. said the MGB's recommendation that discouraged the concreting of the road's pavement directly contradicted the DPWH's statement that the road's condition permitted infrastructure works.

The road became controversial when Board Member Rogelio Leon, Kapangan's former mayor, questioned the DPWH's decision to use P20 million of its funds to rehabilitate the area.

Leon said the P20 million was DPWH's counterpart of the P60 million President Macapagal-Arroyo pledged for the repair of the Acop-Kapangan-Kibungan national road.

Ms Arroyo made the promise after she saw the road's condition when she traveled by land from Baguio City to the Kapangan town hall on March 19 this year to attend the town's fiesta.

She ordered the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) to contribute P20 million each to complete the P60-million fund needed for the road.

Leon said Ms Arroyo did not reach the Nalbengan road section during her visit and thus, the P20-million DPWH fund must be used to repair the road within the 35-km stretch that the President had traversed.

But Alexander Castañeda, Benguet DPWH second district engineer, said the P60 million Ms Arroyo committed covered the entire national road that included the Nalbengan section.

Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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Lacson: GMA driving force behind $329-M broadband deal

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. PANFILO LACSON YESTERDAY called President Macapagal-Arroyo the driving force behind the controversial $329-million national broadband deal with ZTE Corp. of China as he came out with a "reconstituted" copy of the supply contract.

Lacson said the copy of the contract was deliberately hidden by government officials and was not stolen as reported to avoid criticism.

In a privilege speech, Lacson said that despite the objections of Ms Arroyo's economic advisers to spending for another broadband network when there were already three in operation—run by PLDT, TelecPhil and Napocor—the ZTE project was railroaded "using contorted reasoning."

"The answer was in effect—because the President's vision of a cyber corridor, her Cabinet must operationalize. Because there was a cyber corridor grand vision, we had to have a National Broadband Network," Lacson said.

He said Ms Arroyo presented her NBN vision in her 2006 State of the Nation Address.

Ms Arroyo laid down in a board meeting of the National Economic and Development Authority in November last year the conditions for the project:

- It should be undertaken under a build-operate-and-transfer scheme using private funding.
- It should have no government subsidy.
- It should be implemented as a "pay for use" facility.
- It should lead to substantial savings for the government.

'Post-haste'

Lacson said the project and its terms, specifically the funding in which P19 billion of the projected P19.4 billion would come from foreign loans, were changed in the Investment Coordinating Council meeting with the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and Telecommunications Office in March this year.

The project met with skepticism from economic officials and US Ambassador Kristie Kenney but the DOTC proceeded "post-haste" with the NBN project over the next three weeks before the contract was signed by eliminating the two other proponents—Amsterdam Holdings Inc. and Arescom Inc. of the United States.

Lacson took note of the fact that Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri endorsed the NBN project to the China Export-Import Bank on April 20 or less than three weeks after he questioned its viability.

"Something strange must have happened between March 26 and April 20. Did the DOTC adequately explain away Secretary Neri's cogent and reasonable apprehensions? Or did the fixer, who once boasted to his ZTE friends that he would be the most powerful official of the Philippines come the elections of 2007, convinced Secretary Neri? How, if so?" Lacson asked.

The senator said that while it was heroic of Neri to reject a supposed P200-million bribe, "it was idiotic of him to have signed the approval of the NBN contract."

Purposely hidden

Lacson presented to the Senate a "word-for-word" copy of the 39-page contract signed between Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and ZTE vice president Yu Yong and witnessed by Assistant Secretary Lorenzo Formoso III (who Lacson described as the project's whiz kid) and ZTE chair Hou Weigui in front of a "beaming" Ms Arroyo in Hainan, China, on April 21.

"Who did Formoso think he could fool with his cloak-and-dagger yarn of a theft in the hotel room of a DTI trade attaché in Hainan? I would say they were purposely hidden because as soon as the President and Secretary Mendoza came back to this country, the stink that is the NBN-ZTE mega-deal began to smell all over," Lacson said.

He also questioned how the Department of Justice could declare on July 26 the legality of the NBN contract that it claimed did not exist.

"For all intents and purposes, the signatory to this contract has declared that he has the full power and authority to obligate the Republic. The presence of no less than the President lends more than just symbolic imprimatur to it," Lacson said.

'Like a thief in the night'

Lacson also presented a press statement from Malacañang describing the President as having "come like a thief in the night" in her side trip from the Boao economic forum in China.

In the contract, Lacson said the project would cost $329.481 million, with $194.051 million going to equipment; $118.605 million for engineering services; $14.875 million for managed services, and $1.948 million for training services.

"ZTE is supposed to complete supply and installation, testing and commissioning within 36 months from the effective date of the contract. That would be after 2010 when a new government shall have presumably taken over. Whether it works as well as it should, given that the contractor itself will plan, design, test and implement, that's the problem of the next government," he said.

Business groups welcome SC decision

By Ronnel W. Domingo and Riza T. Olchondra

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING BUSINESS groups welcomed the Supreme Court decision, but some said it was not enough.

As expected, ZTE Corp. was "sad" over the "temporary setback" while its rival for the project, Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), felt "relieved."

"The (Supreme Court decision) is good and we are happy about it," said Alberto A. Lim, executive director of the Makati Business Club (MBC).

Lim said that if, after the temporary restraining order was lifted, the deal pushed through, there could be a possible violation of laws, such as those on government procurement and on the development of the telecommunications sector.

Lim said the MBC believed that the contract should not push through.

He earlier said that the NBN project would cause overcapacity because there were two existing telecommunications backbones and it would lead to the imposition of more taxes.

"We are saddened that the NBN project, which the Philippine government has deemed necessary and urgent, has been placed on hold," ZTE said in a statement.

"Even as we respect the order of the Supreme Court, we hope that during this period, concerned parties will take an objective and dispassionate look at the merits of the project, our proposal, and the conduct of the award. All of these have been the subject of numerous severe, unwarranted and unfair allegations," the Chinese firm said.

Nevertheless, the Chinese firm expressed confidence that the TRO was a temporary setback.

"We are confident that the general public will see that ZTE has the best proposal and track record to implement the project," it said.

ZTE's main rival for the NBN contract, AHI was elated.

"To say that we are relieved is an understatement," said Marinelle O'Santos. She is a legal counsel for AHI, which was founded by Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, son of House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

"While it is temporary, at least it stops government from proceeding until we clarify what is going on," O'Santos said.

For his part, Donald G. Dee, chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), said PCCI supported the Supreme Court's move.

"Now that [implementation has been stopped], we want to know, for instance, whether there really is a need for an NBN," Dee said.

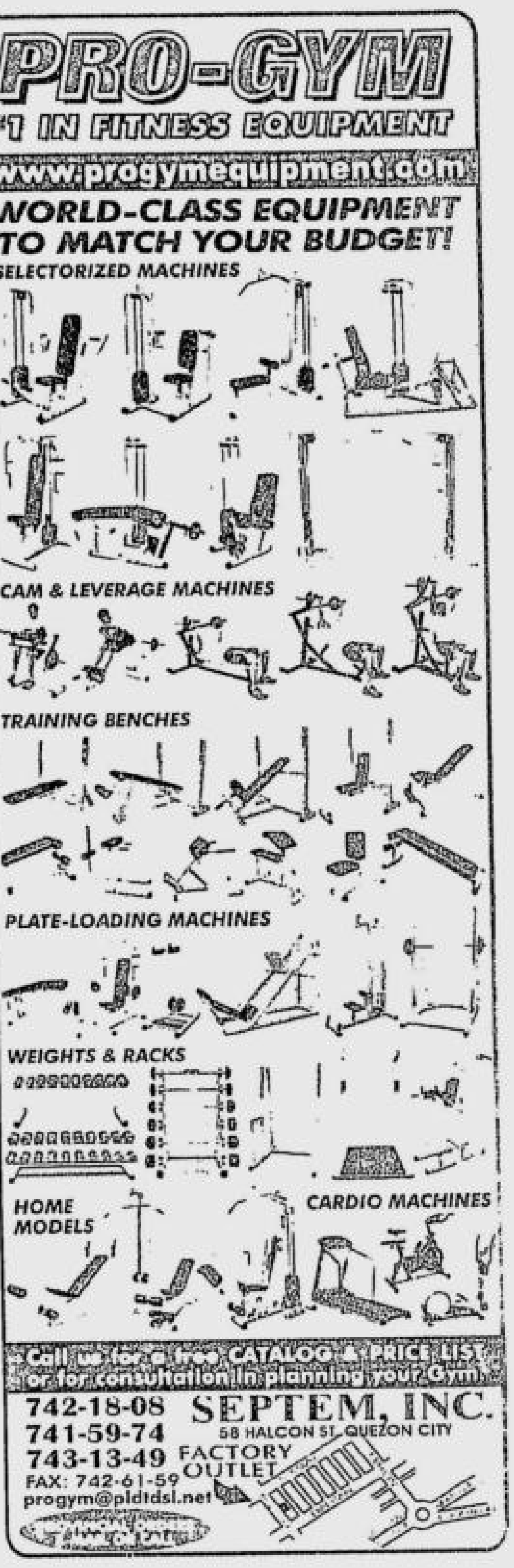
Francis Chua, presidential adviser on China trade and investments, said the TRO reinforced what President Macapagal-Arroyo had said in Sydney.

Chua was referring to Ms Arroyo's intention to discuss the ZTE contract with her advisers.

In a joint statement with the Management Association of the Philippines, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Foundation for Economic Freedom, and Action for Economic Reforms, issued last week, MBC said the NBN deal showed there was "a growing culture of impunity among government officials."

The five groups asked Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. to resign for "his indiscreet conduct and absence from his official duties" in his alleged involvement in the deal.

The groups also called on Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza to rescind the contract with ZTE, which they said "would be rejected by the court of public opinion and, sooner or later, evaluated and ruled on by our own independent courts of law."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SC votes 8-7 to stop NBN deal

From page A1

bunal, said a lawyer who asked not to be named.

HOW THEY VOTED

A SOURCE SAID THOSE WHO VOTED TO issue the TRO were Chief Justice Reynato Puno, Associate Justices Leonardo Quisumbing, Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, Antonio Carpio, Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez, Conchita Carpio-Morales and Adolf Azcuna.

The seven justices who voted against the TRO were Renato Corona, Dante Tinga, Minita Chico-Nazario, Cancio Garcia, Presbitero Velasco, Antonio Nachura and Ruben Reyes.

Acting on the petitions of Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico and Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), the tribunal issued an order temporarily prohibiting government officials from enforcing the deal with China's ZTE Corp.

AHI, which offered an unsolicited bid for the project, and Suplico also sought to compel government officials to give them a copy of the contract and other related documents for scrutiny.

"Now, therefore, effective immediately and continuing until further orders from this Court, you, respondents ... and any and all persons acting on their behalf are hereby enjoined from 'pursuing, entering into indebtedness, disbursing funds, and implementing the ZTE-DOTC Broadband Deal and Project' as prayed for," the high court said in an en banc resolution.

Congressional leaders have called for the scrapping of the controversial NBN contract, the subject of an investigation by committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The NBN project is intended to connect government offices nationwide through landline, cellular and Internet services. It would be funded through a loan from China.

Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez said the respondents to the two petitions were given 15 days upon notice to file their comments.

The respondents include the National Economic and Development Authority and its former chief Romulo Neri; the Department of Transportation and Communications and Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Assistant Secretary Lorenzo Formoso III; the Commission on Information and Communications Technology and Chair Ramon Sales; ZTE Corp.; Arescom Inc.; the National Telecommunications Commission; bids and awards for information and communications technology committee, and the technical working group for ICT.

The high court, in a resolution released yesterday, also took note of the entry of appearance of the Angara Abello Concepcion Regala and Cruz law office as ZTE Corp. counsel and granted its request to be given copies of pleadings, appearances and motions in relation to the case.

The $329-million contract was signed by Mendoza and ZTE vice president Yu Yong on April 21 in Boao, China, in ceremonies witnessed by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Hours later the Philippine copy of the contract was stolen in a hotel in China. It has since been reconstituted.

The NBN deal has been in the news over the past two weeks because of allegations of bribery and overpricing. Nueva Ecija Rep. Carlos Padilla accused Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. of brokering the deal and of receiving sexual favors from ZTE.

AHI cofounder Jose "Joey" de Venecia III also said Abalos offered him $10 million in exchange for backing off from the deal.

Abalos has denied the allegations, saying De Venecia's statements were part of an attempt to mislead the public about De Venecia's role in the NBN project.

ZTE has also denied bribing government executives to bag the contract.

Seen by only select few

Earlier, two economics professors at the University of the Philippines said the NBN deal was not necessary because of existing broadband networks operated by the private sector.

In their petition filed the other day, AHI and its president Nathaniel Sauz said the government was forcing the deal on the people despite the numerous questions about it, and despite the contract being seen by only a select few government officials.

"Very plainly, these parties, herein respondents included, are railroading the NBN-ZTE transaction, ramming it down every Filipino's throat.

"The government is proceeding with this project with reckless abandon, impervious to the very valid concerns, criticisms, and misgivings already expressed before various fora during the past several months. Obviously, the parties interested in this transaction want the deal sealed, so to speak, even before anybody can raise a decisive howl."

'Rigged election process'

The petitioners also said that if the deal continued, Filipinos would be in debt for something that was not been studied well and to which they had not agreed.

Suplico said the high court should nullify the NBN contract with ZTE because it was entered into through "rigged selection proceedings," and violated the procurement law and the build-operate-transfer law that require public bidding, and the Telecoms Policy Act that requires the government to privatize telecommunications facilities.

"The NBN project, under the contract in question, should be annulled and enjoined for preferring public indebtedness over self-reliant and self-liquidating private sector initiatives," he said.

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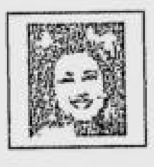
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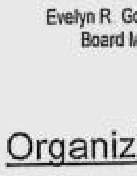
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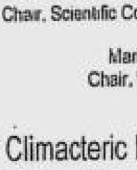
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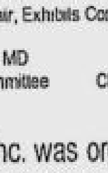
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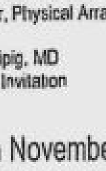
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Chair, Program & Invitation

The Philippine Society of Climacteric Medicine, Inc. was organized on November 28, 1992 at the Philippine Plaza Hotel by a group of Obstetrician, Gynecologists and Internists with special interest and expertise in the care of adult women. From its inception, the PSCM was active in indigenous and international activities so that it became affiliated with the Asia Pacific Menopause Federation in 1994. Likewise, it became a member of the International Menopause Society.

Currently there are 534 members of the society with delegates from the disciplines of cardiology, orthopedic surgery, psychiatry, radiology, nutrition, rheumatology and dermatology with their respective representations in the Board of Directors.

The PSCM 15th Annual Convention is open to all physicians. For inquiries, you may call our secretariat, Ms. Marianne Flores at 433-9776.

Peso tumbles to 47:$1 level amid political uncertainties

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO TUMBLED BACK yesterday to the 47:$1 level ahead of the Sandiganbayan's much-awaited verdict in Joseph Estrada's landmark plunder case.

The local currency closed at the day's low of 47.12 to the US dollar, or 42 centavos weaker than Monday's finish of 46.70 at the Philippine Dealing System. Volume traded at the spot foreign exchange market also jumped to $666 million from $405 million.

On top of domestic political uncertainties, the regional currency market has been weak the last few days because of concerns that the problems in the US housing sector would cause a sharp economic slowdown and drag down the rest of the world's output.

Currency traders said that whether the verdict was conviction or acquittal, uncertainties on the aftermath were carrying fresh political risks that were aggravating market pressures related to a worsening credit crunch in the United States, the Philippines' biggest trading partner.

The treasurer of a medium-sized bank said the markets had been jittery over the verdict. Thus, he said, his bank had scaled down its exposure to peso assets and merely "squared" or evened off trading positions in the peso-dollar market daily in the last few days while waiting for the dust to settle in the political arena.

Spooked either way

Bankers said that either way, the verdict would spook the markets because Estrada was still enjoying strong support among the masses.

A foreign banker spelled it out: A conviction might result in violent mass actions, and an acquittal would cast doubt on the Philippines' capability to uphold the rule of law.

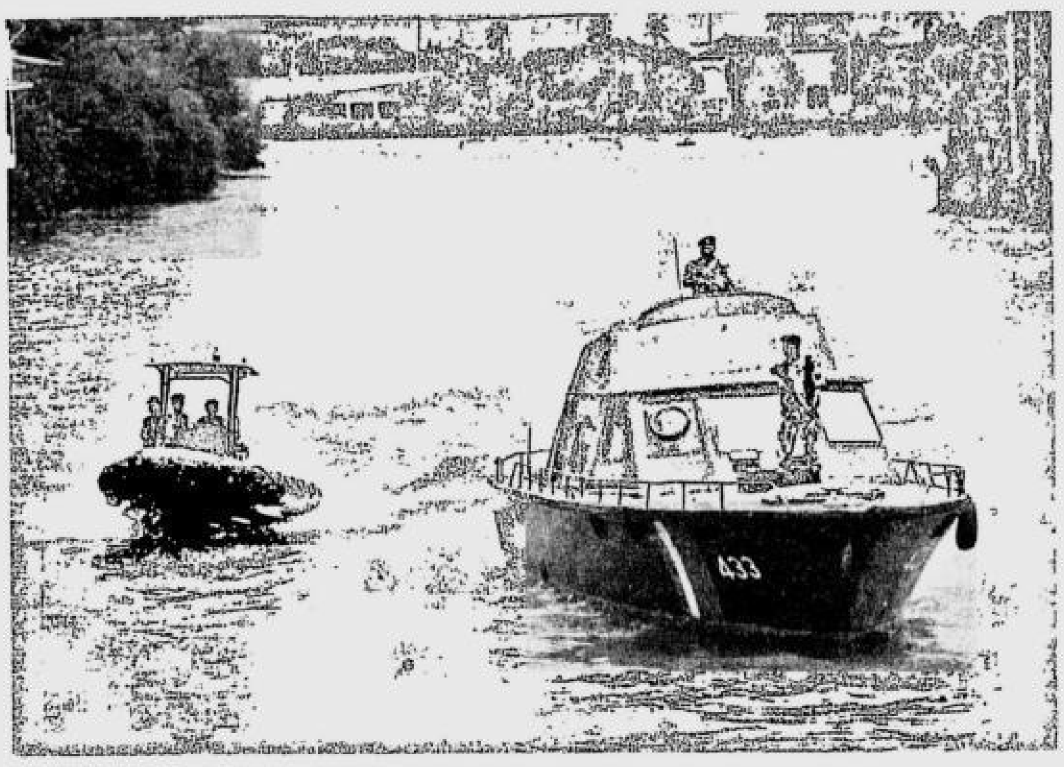
But many appeared to have priced in a conviction, with the next guessing game revolving on whether Malacañang would extend a presidential pardon.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. senior vice president Marcelo Ayes said knee-jerk reactions were weighing down the peso by 50-75 centavos.

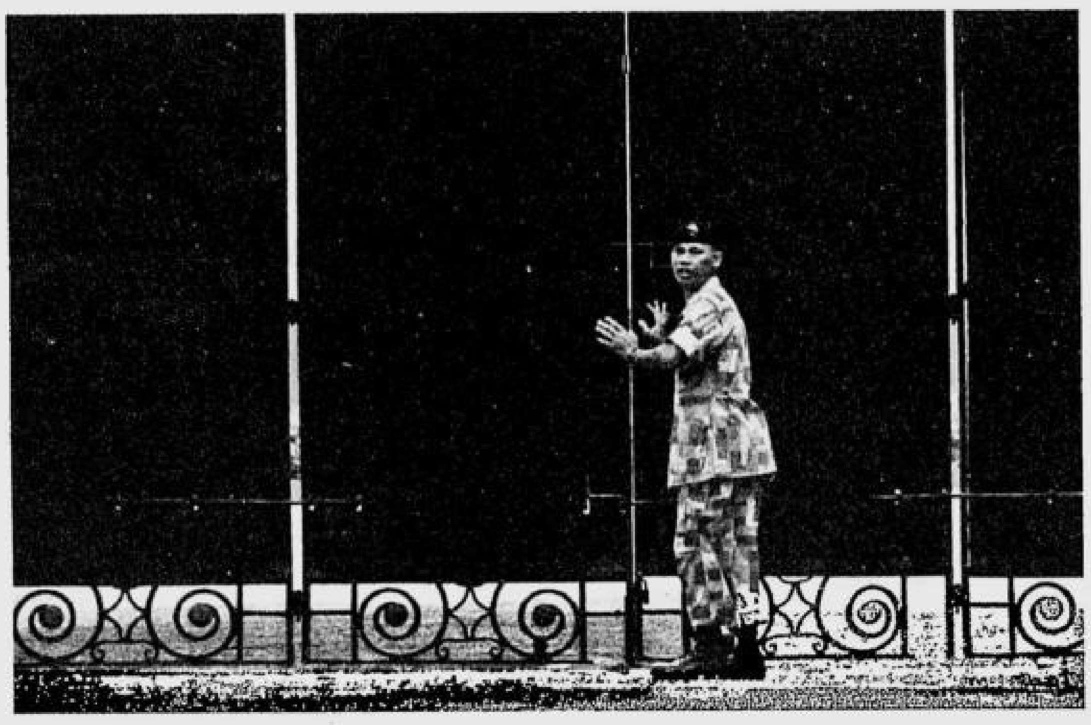
"So we're looking at the 47.30-47.50 level," Ayes said.

Banco de Oro-EPCI chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas said the situation was being affected "a little bit" by the Estrada verdict, "but it's not entirely all about Erap."

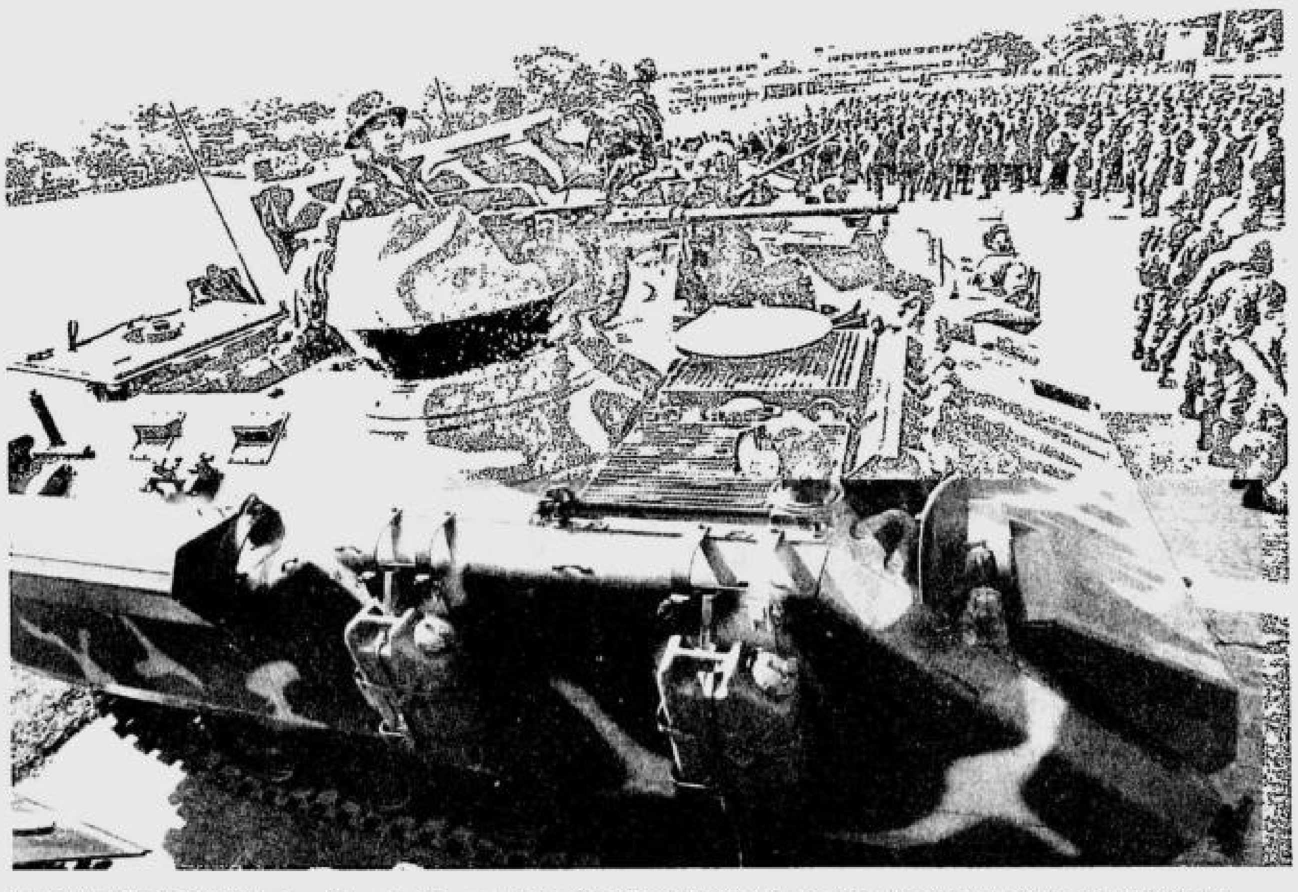
Ravelas said that for him, global concerns over the health of the US economy was what constituted the bigger drag on the peso.



PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY GROUP members patrol the Pasig River near the Palace (at left). What members of the SWAT team wear (at right) on assignment at the Sandiganbayan on Estrada's judgment day.
REM ZAMORA



THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR: Do not enter the Palace gates. Leftists are blasting the government's security preparations for making the country look like a garrison state.
LYN RILLON



SHOW OF FORCE: This is neither Basilan nor Sulu. It's Camp Aguinaldo on the eve of Verdict Day. Destabilizers, forget it.
JOAN BONDOC

INSPECTION OF THE TROOPS of the National Capital Region Command is done by no less than the AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon at Camp Aguinaldo on Tuesday.
JOAN BONDOC

All roads to Palace sealed: 8,000 troops in full battle gear stand by

From page A1

making that will come?" he said.

"This unnecessary deployment of so many troops is a disturbing reminder that this administration will go to great lengths of brutal and ruthless suppression of peaceful assembly and the repression of other rights to retain power," said the son of the ousted President.

The senator said his father does not wish to reclaim the presidency if he is acquitted, saying "President Estrada wishes to clear his name and to retire gradually to private life."

Red alert

The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police are maintaining a red alert—the maximum state of readiness—that has been in force since the President left on Thursday to attend the Asia-Pacific summit in Sydney over the weekend.

"We are preparing for any eventuality because there might be groups that might create disturbances or cannot accept whatever decision of the Sandiganbayan as a court that has tried the case since 2001 [might promulgate]," said Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., AFP chief of staff.

Full combat gear

Dressed in combat gear, Esperon inspected 1,400 of the 2,000 soldiers from the National Capital Regional Command (NCRC) at the grandstand of the AFP general headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo and ordered them to "uphold and enforce" the Sandiganbayan decision.

The NCRC contingent will augment, if needed, a 6,000-strong PNP force that will be deployed in Metro Manila to meet contingencies.

Among the units the AFP included in the backup force were the 12th Mechanized Infantry Company from Tarlac, the 23rd Division Recon Company from Quezon, and the 207th Tactical Helicopter Squadron which covers the entire Luzon.

Yesterday's show of force included a display of 16 armored personnel carriers, a Huey UH-1H helicopter, a recovery vehicle, and K-9 and explosives and ordnance teams.

Music by AFP ladies club

The alert status would likely remain until Saturday, Esperon said.

The NCRC contingent is expected to gather at the AFP grandstand tonight, where the AFP Ladies' Club will sponsor bands that will entertain the troops—a practice to keep morale high.

Jailed plotters

Esperon said it was likely that the soldiers would be deployed in the streets to assist the PNP in the event of "large-scale or widespread violent activities."

"We are ready for that kind of situation," he said. He also stressed that reports about rallies being used as a prelude to destabilization attempts remained "unconfirmed and unverified."

"As I look at it, we do not see any elements from the Armed Forces that would be participating in any kind of destabilization. We don't see any group that would initiate such unauthorized activities," he said.

Asked if the Marine officials detained for an alleged coup attempt last year still wield influence among their men, Esperon replied that whatever influence they have would only be because of "personal relationships."

Police confined to posts

"Our soldiers listen to their commanders," he stressed.

PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon told reporters that a full alert meant all members of the 125,000-strong PNP would have to stay at their posts at all times.

The PNP has said it was deploying 6,000 policemen for its security preparations for the verdict. Around 150 policemen will serve as Estrada's "close-in" security. Of this number, around 40 policemen will ride with Estrada on his convoy from his Tanay rest house where he is detained to the Sandiganbayan.

Supt. Rodel Sermonia, NCRC spokesperson, said antiriot policemen would be deployed at the St. Peter's Church in Fairview near the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City, the Pinaglabanan Shrine in San Juan, Ayala Avenue in Makati and the Senate grounds.

"We are ready. We will implement mega-maximum tolerance in dealing with (ralliers)," Sermonia said.

Brig. Gen. Romeo Prestoza, chief of the Presidential Security Group, said he would not allow a repetition of the failed Edsa 3, when Estrada supporters attempted to storm Malacañang, leaving four people dead and and scores wounded.

"We're more prepared this time," he said. "We also have some strategy to do it, so that that will not happen again."

Garrison state

Renato Reyes, secretary general of the leftist Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), said an "insecure" Arroyo administration was turning Metro Manila "into a garrison." *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Christine O. Avendano and Kristine L. Alave*

POLITICAL FATIGUE

Some no longer care if Erap is found guilty or not

By Metro Staff,
Across the Nation Staff

SOME FILIPINOS HAVE GROWN so weary of politics they no longer care if Joseph Estrada is found guilty or not in his plunder trial. They just want to get on with their lives.

Others see the trial as a warning to future leaders that what happened to Estrada could also happen to them.

A few worry the verdict could spark another people power revolt.

Random interviews around the country showed that Filipinos have their own unique way of expressing what they feel.

Some believe Estrada is guilty, others innocent. Here are their thoughts, expressed mostly in Filipino.

—Zenaida Rosales, 52, mother of five, Manila: (Guilty). "But I don't really care much because whatever is the decision, it won't add to the earnings of my husband. Nothing will change. We will still be poor."

—Roman Vargas Jr., 45, self-employed, Virac, Catanduanes: "*Dapat siguro si Singson ang maconvict, hindi si Erap* (Maybe it is Singson who should be convicted, not Erap)."

—Rolly R. Agasang, 35, security guard, Bacolod: (Not Guilty). "He was framed for political reasons."

—Vincent Jan Cruz Rubio, 26, researcher, Pasig: "We will know if our justice system works ... In our history, no big fish has been convicted, which means the law is only for the marginalized."

—Arsenio Lim, former councilor, Cotabato City: "If he is declared guilty, I suggest he be shot by firing squad to serve as an example to others. But if the verdict is not guilty, the government must pay for damages and the humiliation based on the number of years in detention. He should be allowed to name his price."

—Nita Officiar, 89, pensioner, Virac, Catanduanes: "*Makakalusot'yan* (He'll scrape through)."

The rich and powerful

—Jovy Garcia, 40, accountant, Quezon City (Not Guilty): "The charge was merely political and I am certain that the decision has been 'cooked'."

—Tommy Hafalla, 50, professional photographer, Baguio: (Guilty). "I'd want a guilty verdict ... If a guilty verdict would come out, the face of the judiciary would be preserved. In the Philippines, a lot of people think if you're rich and powerful, you can buy justice."

—Fr. Reynaldo Reloj, 53, parish priest, Rizal, Laguna: "Erap is just a victim. He was only singled out. What about Ramos, the First Gentleman and others?"

—Helen Ayon, 22, student, Leyte Normal University, Tacloban: (Not Guilty): He will not betray the trust of the Filipino people, particularly the *masa*. Yes. I want to know if there is still justice in the country."

Fear of Edsa 3

—Romeo Gabejan, 38, waiter, Malolos, Bulacan: (Guilty). "Erap's case will serve as a warning to others in government. The case has dragged on and it should finally be resolved."

—Kevin Crisostomo, 23, Ateneo student, Las Piñas City: (Guilty, but he will be acquitted). "I am more concerned with what will happen next. I don't want a repeat of Edsa 3 ... I hope supporters of either camp would not resort to violence."

—Fr. Angel Buenavides, Marbel, Koronadal City: "We hope and pray that the verdict will be based on law and the facts of the case ... We want to see the ultimate closure of this case ... so the healing process can start."

—Gerry Leuterio, 29, taho vendor, Makati: "I really don't care anymore. It won't affect me at all. Nothing will happen after that, anyway. And I'm not important here."

'Others worse than Erap'

—Marivic Simona Palakayu, 21, jobless college graduate, Mati, Davao Oriental: "I am beginning to feel sympathy for the man because I realized he was not alone in plundering the country but he's being singled out. There are lots of so-called public servants now much worse than him. But it will definitely send a strong message to corrupt officials in the government."

—Maricel Bombase, 35, domestic helper, Virac, Catanduanes: "*Ang gusto ko mababa lang ang hatol* (I hope he gets a light sentence)."

—Luciano "Lou" Veloso, Manila councilor, theater artist: (Guilty, perhaps). "Justice should apply to all. It should not be that only those without money should suffer ... When all this happened, *artistas* found it difficult to make it in politics, as if people were saying: 'They are all like that'."

Price of corruption

—Macel Aguilar, 29, monitoring and evaluation officer, National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, Caloocan: "If he's guilty, that could serve as a strong warning to all of our leaders that it is never too late for our justice system to (exact) the price for graft and corruption."

—Chester, 38, assistant supervisor, credit agency, Lubao, Pampanga: (Not Guilty). "There might be people power. That would scare Gloria. I am concerned about the verdict because that would have an effect on the economy. When Erap stepped down, the peso went up."

—Bing Baguioro, 46, education specialist, Children's Laboratory, Quezon City: (Guilty). "I don't think he knows that what he did was 'plunder,' unlike GMA who knows and (is) thus more careful not to be caught."

Victim of politics

—Eva Liup, 33, housewife, Caloocan: "*Wala syang kasalanan, pero wala akong pakialam, bahala sila sa buhay nila* (He is not guilty but I don't care. It's up to them to do what they want with their lives)."

—Glenn Huna, 20, security guard, Tagbilaran: (Not Guilty). "He is just a victim of too much politics..."

—Porperio Panado, 32, security guard, Quezon City: (Not Guilty). "It hurts to see a former President go to prison. I am sure there are other politicians who have done worse things than him."

—Raymundo Voltaire Morales, fisherman, Davao Oriental: "If he is convicted, will that improve our living condition? This is just a power play of the rich and powerful. It will never benefit us."

—Meynard Abog, 35, carpenter, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro: "*Mabait si Erap, galit lang si GMA sa kanya* (Erap is kind, GMA just hates him)."

Good for jurisprudence

—Arnel Demafeliz, 33, OFW from Dubai, Kidapawan: "Guilty or not guilty, I don't think my situation is going to be affected."

—Rey Inciong, law professor, University of the East, Manila: "(This case) will enrich our jurisprudence. It's the first time that a President is willing to go to jail for his beliefs."

—Jenny Ordoveza, 44, housewife, Pasig: "He should be forgiven because he's old."

With reports from Tina Santos, DJ Yap, Allison Lopez, Julie M. Aurelio, Kristine Alave, Jeannette Andrade, Nancy Carvajal, Kenneth M. del Rosario; Carmela Reyes and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon; Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Elmer Kristian Dauigoy and Gobleth Moulic, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Fernan Gianan, Romulo Ponte, Ephraim Aguilar, Jaymee Gamil, Nina Catherine Calleja, Madonna Virola, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Cyril C. Cabuenas, Joey A. Gabieta, Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Carla P. Gomez, K. Bagaipo, Inquirer Visayas; Aquiles Zonio, Charlie Señase, Rolando Pinsoy and Ferdinand Zuasola, Inquirer Mindanao

Judgment Day for Erap after 6 years, 4 months, 17 days

From page A1

fate of his coaccused—his son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and lawyer Edward Serapio.

Vigil at Polk

Estrada's close-knit clan is holding a prayer vigil at his residence on Polk Street in Greenhills, according to the man himself.

Once the center of power in the family bailiwick of San Juan, the house is the setting of the vigil that began late on Sunday—the day the antigraft court granted Estrada a day pass to visit his ailing mother and seek her blessing.

Connected to life-support machines at the San Juan Medical Center, the 102-year-old Mary Ejercito managed to give her favorite son a "brief gaze" before going back to sleep, a family aide had told the Inquirer.

Estrada reiterated that despite the Arroyo administration's offer for him to leave the country—purportedly made twice—he had refused to flee because he wanted to prove his innocence.

He said he was not able to do so during the aborted impeachment trial at the Senate.

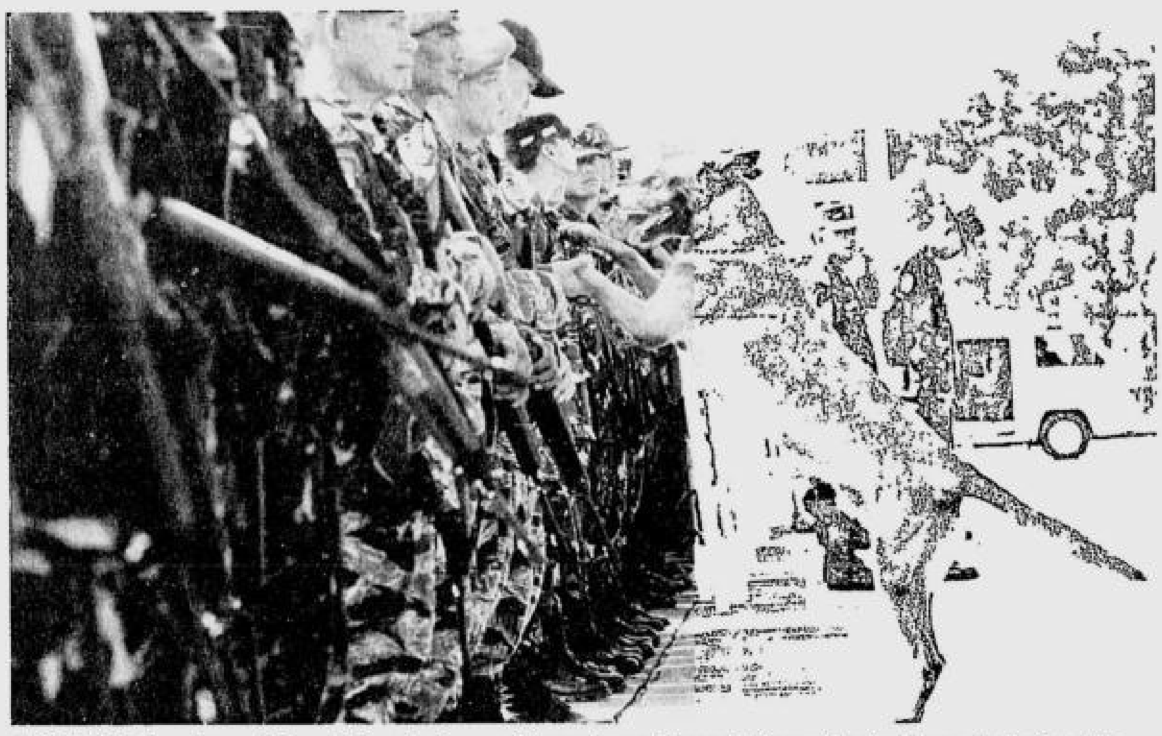
"I gambled to face trial for more than six years because I believe I am innocent of the charges, and the majority of the Filipinos believe so," he said.

In his taped message, delivered in Filipino, Estrada said: "I have been imprisoned for six years, four months and 17 days, but because of your prayers, help and love, I have endured all these.

"Whatever the Sandiganbayan will decide, I am ready because I know my countrymen have acquitted me."

Even Remulla

Even Deputy Majority Leader Crispin Remulla of Cavite, now part of the coalition that solidly supports President Macapagal-Arroyo in the House of Representatives, is "praying."



A SNIFFER dog plays with a soldier during a military show of force in Camp Aguinaldo, a day before the Sandiganbayan hands down its verdict on deposed leader Joseph Estrada. REUTERS

"I am praying for his acquittal," Remulla said on the phone when asked his thoughts on the eve of the Sandiganbayan's promulgation of its decision.

"Whatever the consequences, I don't care. As far as I'm concerned, I want the man acquitted," he said when reminded of the dire implications of an acquittal on the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration.

Remulla was chief legal adviser of Estrada when he was driven from Malacañang in January 2001.

As stated in the diary of Sen. Edgardo Angara, at that time Estrada's executive secretary, Remulla tried to make the beleaguered President sign a document to make it appear that he was merely going on leave and designating then Vice President Arroyo as acting president.

"I followed the case for six years and I didn't see the prosecution prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt," Remulla said yesterday. "I am hoping that the Sandiganbayan comes up with an acquittal."

Hopeful but...

House Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora of San Juan said he was hoping for an acquittal but was expecting a conviction.

"We hope that he will be acquitted. If the Sandiganbayan convicts him, we hope that it will be for a lesser offense rather than plunder," said Zamora, who served as executive secretary before the Estrada administration unraveled amid allegations that it was the top protector of the illegal numbers game "jueteng."

Zamora, a lawyer, said he was likewise unimpressed by the prosecution's presentation of its case against Estrada.

However, he said, "I cannot see that President Estrada will be acquitted," considering how an acquittal would undermine the Arroyo administration.

Zamora said Estrada should also be given consideration as far as a jail term was concerned.

"He has already spent a considerable time in prison," Zamora said, referring to Estrada's detention at the Veterans' Memorial Medical Center, the police custodial center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and his vacation estate in Tanay.

Nueva Ecija Rep. Eduardo Joson, administrator of the National Food Authority during Estrada's term, and by his account one of the latter's drinking buddies, said he expected a guilty verdict from the Sandiganbayan.

But Joson said Ms Arroyo was equally to blame for the problems besetting the country.

"The guilty verdict is not only for Erap but for GMA as well. They are equally guilty in the eyes of the people," he said.

Joson, who once headed a group named Free Erap Movement (or Freedom), lamented that Estrada had ignored his repeated warnings about the latter's association with supposedly shady characters.

Corrupt practices

"We were close. We used to drink until the wee hours of the morning and I warned him about the company he was keeping at that time," Joson told reporters.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, another Estrada ally who is now a staunch defender of Ms Arroyo, said she hoped that if the Sandiganbayan would hand down a conviction, it would be, not for the heinous crime of plunder, but for the lesser offense of corrupt practices.

"Both an outright acquittal and a plunder conviction would be disastrous for political stability and the national economy," said the former trial court judge.

According to Santiago's "educated guess"—which she said she had arrived at via "the process of elimination"—Estrada will not be convicted of plunder "because the charge mainly refers to private funds consisting of alleged 'jueteng' kickbacks."

"Plunder mainly refers to malversation of public funds or raids on the public treasury," she pointed out, failing to mention that Estrada is also charged with dipping into tobacco excise tax funds.

Santiago likewise said Estrada should accept a presidential pardon if it was offered. She said doing so would not mean he was guilty.

Both crimes call for imprisonment (20 to 40 years for plunder and from six to 15 years for corrupt practices), and carry perpetual disqualification from public office and confiscation of unexplained wealth.

Estrada has been detained since 2001.

The crime of plunder requires abuse of government contracts, projects or assets, or taking undue advantage of one's government position.

The crime of corrupt practices involves, not necessarily public funds, but any act or omission by a public officer leading to the acquisition of unexplained wealth. ***With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and AP***

IN THE KNOW

2 ex-South Korean presidents convicted

IN AUGUST 1996, THE DEATH sentence was meted out to former South Korean President Chun Doo-hwan for treason and a 22-year prison term was slapped on former president Roh Tae-woo for bribery.

Chun was convicted of masterminding a coup in December 1979 and for a brutal 1980 crackdown on prodemocracy protests.

His successor, Roh, was found guilty of abetting the coup and accepting hundreds of millions of dollars in illegal contributions.

Roh and Chun were released in December 1997 after spending about two years behind bars. They were granted special pardon by Kim Dae-jung—then newly elected president and former dissident whom they once sentenced to death. Kim is considered South Korea's Ninoy Aquino.

The special pardon, however, did not relieve them of hefty fines: Chun for $270 million and Roh $350 million—roughly the amounts they received in bribes from businessmen.

High court okays live TV-radio coverage

From page A1

reading of the verdict so that the people could receive the information immediately.

"This is in line with the right of the people to information," Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez told reporters of the unanimous decision.

Restrictions

But Marquez said there were restrictions on the coverage.

One, only the video camera of the Supreme Court's Public Information Office (PIO) will be allowed inside the courtroom and only the office's personnel can operate it.

The video camera should only focus on the court personnel reading the verdict, and the video coverage will only cover the reading of the decision.

Hook up

"[The camera] cannot even pan on the accused, on the justices because the right to information only limits the people to what is being read and how the court is deciding, no more, no less," Marquez said.

TV and radio stations will be allowed to hook up to the Supreme Court's video camera and they shall, in turn, allow other stations to link up with them.

The live media coverage should also be under the control of the presiding justice at all times.

Public interest

The KBP, in seeking permission to air live the promulgation of the plunder case yesterday morning, said the move was necessary and practical.

KBP president Butch Canoy, in his urgent motion addressed to Chief Justice Reynato Puno, said it was in the public's interest to watch the promulgation live, especially considering that it involves a former President, and the subject of the case was what led to his ouster from office in 2001.

The public also has the right to know the reason behind the Sandiganbayan decision, according to Canoy.

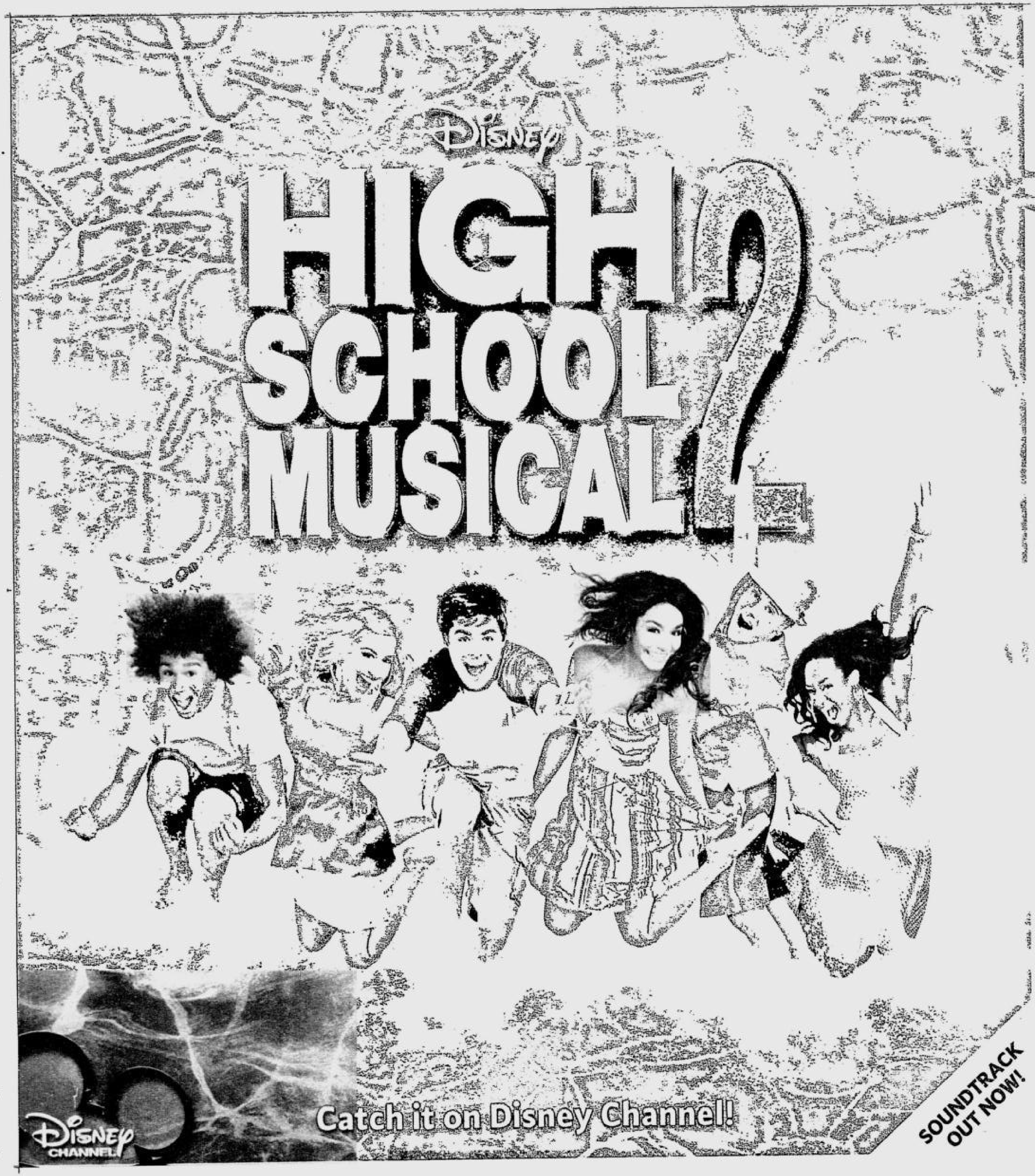
"Considering the concerns and/or constraints in allowing actual public access to the proceedings, particularly the considerations for security and the limited space, live coverage by media is a practical solution in ensuring virtual public access to the proceedings without compromising concerns for security and space," the KBP president said.

Canoy also invoked the people's right to information, saying it mandates that the information be delivered at the soonest possible time in the interest of transparency and public accountability.

The conditions prevailing when the high court barred the live airing of Estrada's trial also no longer exist, according to Canoy.

He pointed out that live coverage of the trial was banned to ensure its impartial disposition. But in this case, the verdict is already set to be promulgated.

Canoy said the KBP was ready to follow the rules so that the live coverage would not interfere with the court proceedings.



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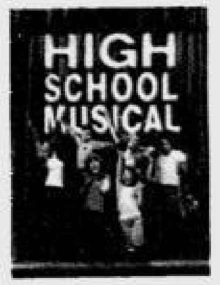

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DID YOU KNOW

ACCORDING to the Waste Management Office of Marikina, the city has the highest garbage collection efficiency rate—99 percent—in Metro Manila. Marikina reportedly collects about 6,000 cubic meters of trash in a day.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

23 QC schools suspend classes today

Inconvenience, security problems tied up to reading of Erap verdict cited

By Kenneth M. del Rosario and Jeannette I. Andrade

QUEZON CITY OFFICIALS YESTERDAY ANnounced the suspension of classes today in 23 public elementary and secondary schools near the Commonwealth area due to the "inconvenience and security problems" that could arise following the promulgation of the Sandiganbayan decision in former President Joseph Estrada's plunder case.

According to the Quezon City division of schools, there will be no classes today in the following elementary schools: Doña Juana, Batasan Hills, San Diego, Commonwealth, Culiat, New Era, Pasong Tamo, Holy Spirit, Payatas A, Payatas B, Payatas B Annex, Payatas C, Lupang Pangako, Bagong Silangan and Manuel L. Quezon.

Classes were also suspended in the following high schools: Commonwealth, Commonwealth-Holy Spirit Annex, Batasan Hills National, Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma, Bagong Silangan, Culiat, New Era, and Pasong Tamo.

The Quezon City government, on the other hand, recommended the cancellation of classes in 88 private schools in the area, although Mayor Feliciano Belmonte said that the decision would be left to school officials.

At press time, only several private schools have announced the suspension of classes today. These were the Diliman Preparatory School, the Our Lady of Mercy School of Quezon City, Ateneo de Manila University, Miriam College, FEU Fern Diliman and Claret School of Quezon City. Ateneo and Miriam officials, however, said that there would be classes in the collegiate and post-graduate levels.

Diliman Preparatory and the Our Lady of Mercy are near the site where protesters are expected to gather.

Only one group, however, the Oust Gloria Movement, has so far applied for a permit rally which was approved by the city's Department of Public Order and Safety.

But their request to stage a protest in front of the Sandiganbayan, was denied after DPOS chief Manuel Sabalza said this violated a Supreme Court memorandum prohibiting rallies within a radius of 200 m from any Hall of Justice, including the Sandiganbayan.

Sabalza said the group would be restricted to the area near St. Peters Church where more Estrada supporters are expected to gather. Organizers have said they would gather some 5,000 pro-Erap demonstrators for the promulgation of the Sandiganbayan decision today.

The DPOS said it was coordinating with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, the Quezon City Police District, and the Traffic Enforcement Group to maintain peace and order among ralliers and outside the Sandiganbayan.

QCPD director, Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula, said he and his men were "all set and prepared for any eventuality."

Some 160 city traffic enforcers will be deployed in the vicinity of the courthouse as early as 5 a.m.

QCPD spokesperson, Supt. Asprinio Cabula, said the northbound lane of Commonwealth Avenue (Elliptical to Fairview) will be closed to traffic starting at 6 a.m., from the Ever Gotesco mall up to the Commission on Audit building.

Cabula added that the southbound lane would be opened to two-way traffic. Northbound vehicles can use the U-turn slot near the Ever Gotesco mall to go to the southbound lane.

The northbound lane will only be opened as soon as the situation in the area normalizes, the police official said, referring to the voluntary dispersal of protesters.

₱3 million lost in Pasig City building fire

By Kristine L. Alave

PROPERTY WORTH ABOUT P3 million was damaged when a fire broke out on the 18th floor of the Strata 2000 building at the Ortigas business district in Pasig City Monday night.

Hundreds of employees fled from the building when the fire was reported at 7:25 p.m. It was put under control almost two hours later.

The building is occupied by offices and call center agencies. Witnesses and investigators said the fire originated from a room owned by a recruitment agency called First Magellan.

The firm's human resources manager, Louisa Reyes, said they heard a loud pop in their pantry before the lights went out. Shortly after, the office was filled with black smoke.

Reyes said she and about 20 of her officemates immediately left the 18th floor, which housed a call center company and another private office.

In his report, F01 Salvador Norbete, Pasig City arson investigator, said no one was hurt or killed in the fire that reached the third alarm.

He estimated that about P3 million worth of valuables were destroyed in the incident.

Authorities have yet to determine the exact cause of the fire, but some firemen on the scene said it could have been caused by faulty wiring.

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Cops looking for ex-boxer in driver's slay

By Tina G. Santos

A FORMER BOXER who knocked out boxing champion Manny Pacquiao in 1996, when the latter was just starting his professional career, is now being sought by the police after he was accused of killing a truck driver in Tondo, Manila yesterday morning.

Former light flyweight boxer Rustico Torrecampo, also known as Dodong Mami, 30, a noodle vendor and resident of Nepomuceno Street in Tondo, was tagged as the prime suspect in the death of Ernesto Ongkit, 54, driver of a Leonel Waste Management truck.

Investigators said the incident happened at 5:45 a.m. at the corner of Velasquez and Capulong Streets.

The victim—accompanied by his helpers Angelito Ibay and Narciso Rebonario—was driving the dump truck on Capulong Street and was about to make a turn when he accidentally sideswiped the suspect's noodle cart, spilling all of his wares on the street.

The police said the suspect tried to talk to the victim but the latter ignored him, driving off in his truck.

This angered Torrecampo, who ran after the driver and stabbed him repeatedly, police added. The suspect fled after the incident.

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Artists up in arms vs NCCA exec, 'Palace manipulation'

By Tina G. Santos

AROUND 20 MEMBERS OF THE Concerned Artists of the Philippines yesterday staged a rally in front of the commission's office in Intramuros, Manila, to protest what they claimed was Malacañang's manipulation of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts.

Among the participants were National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera and painter Claude Tayag.

The protesters called for the ouster of NCCA executive director Cecile Guidote-Alvarez who they claimed was not qualified for the post as she was not a Career Eligible Service Officer.

They also accused her of illegally releasing the commission's funds.

"She attempted to move the National Endowment Funds for Culture and the Arts without following proper procedures. She initiates her own multimillion peso projects and finances them with NCCA funds," they claimed.

"We demand the immediate ouster of Guidote-Alvarez and her replacement by any eligible executive director who will abide by the principles of the NCCA and handle the management and operations of the commission competently and professionally," the protesters said.

The artists also opposed an alleged move by Malacañang to appoint Education Undersecretary Vilma Labrador as the new NCCA chair.

"Undersecretary Labrador faces cases with the Ombudsman on shady deals concerning the misappropriation of funds," they alleged.

Lumbera said Alvarez should listen to the artists. "She should listen to them or else, they might lose interest in joining NCCA projects," he told the INQUIRER.

Alvarez said the protest action was "initiated by people salivating to become chair."

"But I am open to dialogue," she told the INQUIRER although she stressed that she would not step down from her post.

"Let's sit down and talk, let's go through a process. I will answer, but let's have the facts correct and don't create lies," Alvarez, who is also the presidential assistant on culture, said.

GMA, HANDS OFF NCCA!
OUST Cecille ALVAREZ!!
FIGHT FOR ARTISTS' RIGHTS
GMA

NATIONAL Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera joins protestors calling for the ouster of National Commission on Culture and the Arts executive director Cecile Guidote-Alvarez. RYAN LIM

METROBRIEFS

Witness in UP student's death to come out

THE FORMER student council chair of the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP-NCPAG) who was the last person seen with suspected hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez may soon come forward. This was confirmed yesterday by NCPAG dean Alex Brillantes Jr. who told the INQUIRER that Ariel Paolo Ante has expressed his willingness to appear at his office to air his side on the incident. Mendez, an NCPAG student council member, was declared dead on arrival on Aug. 27 at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. An autopsy report revealed that he had been beaten up badly, bolstering suspicions that he was a victim of hazing. Ante has not appeared at the college since. Brillantes has repeatedly called on Ante to report to his office to tell him what he knows about Mendez's death.

Jeannette I. Andrade

'Pink Line Project' is MMDA's latest

AFTER street fences, bicycle lanes, pedestrian overpasses, and even public urinals, another fixture in the streets of Metro Manila will soon bear Bayani Fernando's favorite color, pink. This time, the chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority is bent on painting all the sidewalks of major and secondary roads around the metropolis with two-inch wide pink lines. His objective: To stop drivers from parking their vehicles on the sidewalks. The message, it seems, is for the dimwitted: The pink lines separate the pavement from the street. Aptly dubbed the "Pink Line Project," the undertaking is part of the MMDA's effort to strictly enforce illegal parking laws, Fernando said. "Let us now return the sidewalks to the people who face the risk of being sideswiped by running vehicles because they cannot walk freely on the sidewalks," he said in a statement. Fernando added that violators would be issued traffic violation receipts for illegal parking, and face the risk of being towed once spotted.

DJ Yap

Cop kills 2 suspected holdup men

TWO holdup suspects were killed by a policeman early yesterday morning in Las Piñas City. The victims, identified as Jose Sedillo and Urcesio Soliva Jr., were pronounced dead on arrival at the Las Piñas District Hospital. Both were residents of Muntinlupa City. Investigation showed that the two men were spotted at the corner of St. Joseph Avenue and Guinto Street in Barangay Pulang Lupa 2 at around 2 a.m. yesterday, carrying firearms. When the two policemen, PO2 Eden Limbauan and PO2 Eduardo Gregorio, approached the suspects to accost them, Soliva pulled out a knife and stabbed Limbauan who fell to the ground. Gregorio, meanwhile, pulled out his service firearm and shot the two suspects. Recovered from the suspects were two cal. .38 revolvers and the knife used by Soliva.

Julie M. Aurelio

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
I CLOUD COMPANY, INC. Unit 113 Legaspi Suites, 178 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City	Tadashi Sunohara Japanese	Sales Consultant
BOY HAIR PHILS., INC. Unit 102-C G/F Catleya Condominium, 235 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Masashi Morimoto Japanese	Senior Hair Stylist/ Hair Styling Consultant
CEBU AIR, INC. 43/F EPCIB Tower, ADB Ave., Pasig City	Boon Kwee William Wee Singaporean	Consultant for Fleet Engineering Management
FIL. KOR GOLF & BEACH CLUB CORP. U-308 8459 Kalayaan Ave. cor. Don Pedro St., Poblacion, Makati City	Kazuo Saito Japanese	General Manager
KYM IMPORT & EXPORT LTD. CO. Unit 3-A3 Juan Luna Plaza, 668 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila	Aihong Gong Chinese	Sales Supervisor
LIFE GAMES TRADING CO. LTD. 303-305 Lavezares St., Tondo, Manila	Jianghuai Shi Chinese	Sales Representative
ANVIL PHILIPPINES MINING VENTURES, INC. Net One Center, 26th St. cor. 3rd Ave., Crescent Park West, BGC, Taguig City	Nicholas John Franey British	Director
EYEMAX CORPORATION Unit 1402 Annapolis Wilshire Plaza, 11 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan City	Eun Ho Kwon Korean	Consultant
NARA 9 NETWORK SYSTEM, INC. 101 Quirino Ave., Baclaran, Paranaque City	Won Suk Choi Korean	Asst. Manager
LOGICACMG, INC. 10/F Trafalgar Plaza, Makati City	Neil David Elias Australian	Country Head
ERMITAGE ISLANDS AND COMPANY, INC. Unit 1115 Tower 1, PSE Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Yoshinori Muramatsu Japanese	Executive Chef
JOBENE MANPOWER INTERNATIONAL SERVICES, INC. 203 VIP Bldg., 1140 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila	Michael Oreilly Irish	Representative
LEEKIE ENTERPRISES, INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Darwis Restu Widjaja Indonesian	IT Staff/Customer Support Staff
LEEKIE ENTERPRISES, INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Lie Song Boen Indonesian	Customer Support Staff
D/M SUPERMART GEN CORP. 1 Home Expo Ninoy Aquino Ave., San Dionisio, Parañaque City	Young Hwa Lee (w/o KAM) Korean	Manager
IT KOR INC. 1715 Bocobo St., Malate, Manila	Youngran Choi (wife of KIM) Korean	Operation Manager
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Chiao-Yun Cheng Taiwanese	Executive Analyst (Mandarin Speaking)
OILWELL DRILLING TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC. 98 Road 1 cor. Road 3, Proj. 6, Quezon City	Joseph Paul Keenan British	Training Consultant
eTELECARE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, INC. 31/F Cyberzone Bldg., Eastwood Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Stefano Amato German	Customer Service Associate
SUMISETSU PHILIPPINES, INC. 146 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Kazushi Watanabe Japanese	Project Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI-September 12, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

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Bid documents shall be available at the BFAR Property Section starting **September 17-21, 2007** upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of Php500.00.

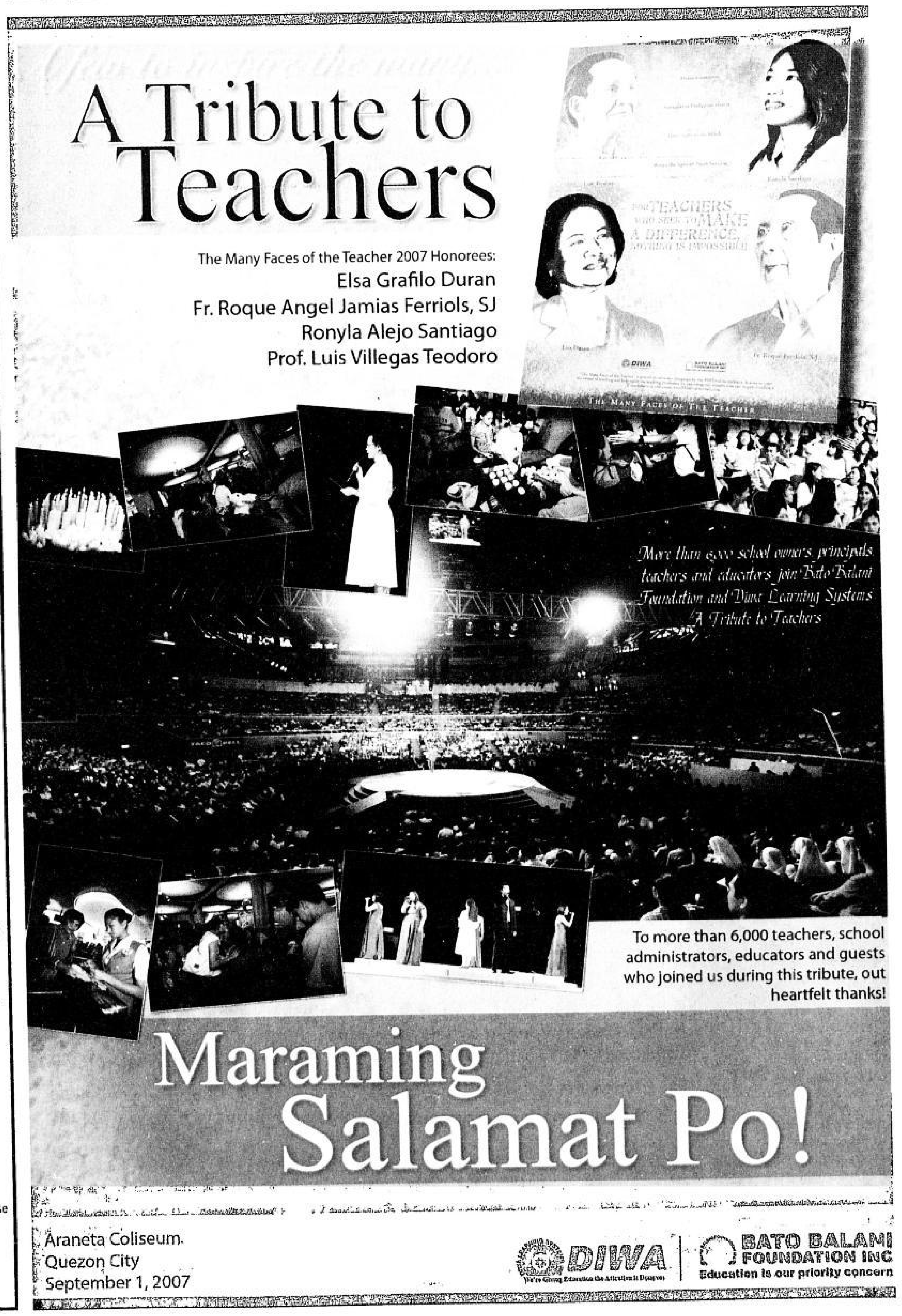
Eligibility documents, technical and financial proposal in three envelopes must be submitted at the BFAR-BAC Secretariat, PCA Compound, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than **2:00 p.m.** on **October 8, 2007** and shall be opened on the same time and date in the presence of the participating bidders.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat at Tel. No. 426-3168.

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the BAC is the most advantageous to the government. The BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

(PDI - Sept. 12, 2007)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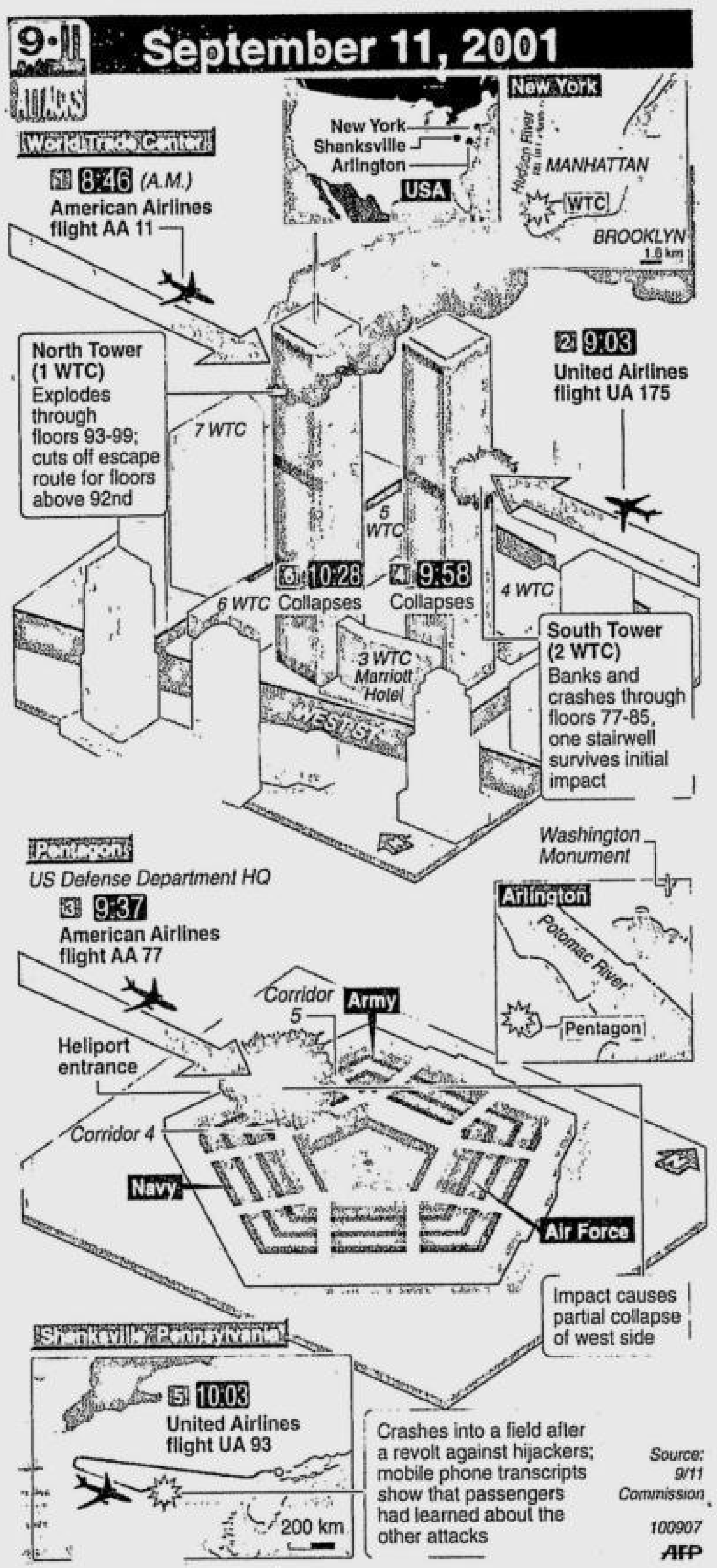
US still at risk six years after 9/11 terror attacks


9-11 ATTACKS
September 11, 2001
New York
New York
Shanksville
Arlington
USA
Hudson River
MANHATTAN
WTC
BROOKLYN
1.6 km
World Trade Center
1 8:46 (A.M.)
American Airlines flight AA 11
North Tower (1 WTC) Explodes through floors 93-99; cuts off escape route for floors above 92nd
7 WTC
2 9:03
United Airlines flight UA 175
5 WTC
6 10:28
6 WTC Collapses
4 9:58
Collapses
4 WTC
South Tower (2 WTC) Banks and crashes through floors 77-85, one stairwell survives initial impact
3 WTC Marriott Hotel
WEST ST
Washington Monument
Pentagon
US Defense Department HQ
3 9:37
American Airlines flight AA 77
Arlington
Potomac River
Pentagon
Corridor 5
Army
Heliport entrance
Corridor 4
Navy
Air Force
Impact causes partial collapse of west side
Shanksville, Pennsylvania
5 10:03
United Airlines flight UA 93
200 km
Crashes into a field after a revolt against hijackers; mobile phone transcripts show that passengers had learned about the other attacks

Source: 9/11 Commission

100907

AFP

Al-Qaida chief vows to escalate Iraq war

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States remains at risk from attack even though it may be better prepared to fight the "war on terror," US security chiefs warned on Monday on the eve of the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 strikes.

The warning comes after elusive al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden vowed an escalation in the war in Iraq in a new video released to mark Tuesday's anniversary of the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"While we have successfully raised our barrier against terrorist attacks, the fact remains that we are still a nation at risk," said Michael Chertoff, the head of the Department of Homeland Security that was set up immediately after 9/11 to protect the United States from future attacks.

"We continue to face a persistent threat to our homeland over the next several years," he told a congressional hearing on Monday on "confronting the terrorist threat to the homeland six years after 9/11."

Despite maintaining a constant alert for possible al-Qaida attacks, authorities could not discount dangers posed by homegrown terrorists and isolated radical individuals or groups that initiated their own plots, he said.

"While no one can guarantee we will not face another terrorist strike in the next six years, if we allow ourselves to step back from the fight, if we allow our progress to halt, if we don't continue to build the necessary tools to stay ahead of terrorist threats, then we will most certainly suffer the consequences," he warned.

Chertoff announced proposed regulation requiring general aviation aircraft entering the United States to provide comprehensive passenger manifest information to US authorities prior to departure.

"This will help us prevent private aircraft from being used to bring potentially dangerous people or weapons into the United States," he said.

Also, by the end of the year, the United States will be scanning virtually every container that came into the country by sea, he said.

Michael McConnell, the director of national intelligence, warned that the United States would "face a persistent and evolving terrorist threat over the next three years," citing the al-Qaida and Hezbollah groups as key concerns.

"We judge that the United States currently is in a heightened threat environment," McConnell said.

While al-Qaida would remain the "most serious terrorist threat," the Hezbollah militant group could stage an attack on the United States if it believed the US posed a direct threat to the group or to its alleged backer Iran, he said.

Iran, which is at loggerheads with the United States over its nuclear ambitions, is a vocal supporter of Hezbollah, considered a "terrorist" group by Washington.

Asked by lawmakers whether al-Qaida was as strong as it was in 2001, McConnell said, "they have regained a significant level of their capability but not as strong" as six years ago.

He expressed concern that the international cooperation which had constrained al-Qaida's ability to attack the United States could fizzle out as the Sept. 11 attacks become a distant memory. *AFP*

Time magazine ordered to pay Suharto $106M

SUHARTO AP

JAKARTA—INDONESIA'S Supreme Court has ordered Time magazine to pay $106 million in damages for defaming former dictator Suharto by alleging his family amassed $15 billion during his 32-year rule.

The May 1999 cover story in the magazine's Asian edition said much of that money had been transferred from Switzerland to Austria before Suharto stepped down amid riots and pro-democracy protests in 1998.

Suharto, who has also been accused of widespread rights abuses, had filed a lawsuit with the Central District Jakarta and later the Jakarta High Court, both of which ruled in Time's favor.

A panel of three Supreme Court judges, including a retired general who rose in the military ranks during Suharto's administration, overturned the decisions on Aug. 31. The ruling ordered Time Inc. Asia and six employees to apologize in leading Indonesian magazines and newspapers as well as Time's Asian, European and America editions. *AP*

Wiretapping helped foil plot in Germany, says US

WASHINGTON—INFORMATION gained through a US wiretapping program much criticized by civil liberties advocates helped authorities foil attack plots last week in Germany and Denmark, top US intelligence officials said on Monday.

US Director of Intelligence Michael McConnell said the surveillance program had made "significant contributions" in discovering and breaking up a suspected plot in Germany to bomb American installations. He cited them as a reason that the US Congress should reject attempts to restrict it.

"It allowed us to see and understand all the connections … to al-Qaida," McConnell told a hearing of the Senate Homeland Security Committee.

The program also contributed to the arrests in Denmark of eight Muslims, with suspected links to al-Qaida, on suspicion of planning a bomb attack, National Counterterrorism Center Director John Redd told reporters later.

McConnell said the surveillance program, which includes tapping the communications of foreign terrorism suspects, helped track links between those arrested in Germany and the Islamic Jihad Union, which he described as an al-Qaida affiliate.

After "a long process of monitoring and observation," authorities realized the suspects had obtained explosive liquids, he said. *Reuters*

Parents of missing girl say they are innocent

ROTHLEY, ENGLAND—THE FATHER OF missing 4-year-old Madeleine McCann says he and his wife are totally confident of their innocence as they wait to learn whether they will face criminal charges in Portugal.

Portuguese police investigating the British girl's disappearance on May 3 from a hotel in southern Portugal say they expect to hand over their files to the prosecutor's office on Tuesday. Police named Kate and Gerry McCann as suspects on Friday.

"We have absolute confidence that, when all of the facts are presented together, we will be able to demonstrate that we played absolutely no part in Madeleine's abduction," Gerry McCann wrote late Monday in a blog on www.findmadeleine.com.

Police had hoped to submit their file on Monday, but are now aiming for Tuesday, spokesperson Olegario Sousa said. He declined to provide further details, citing Portugal's secrecy law covering ongoing police investigations.

Portimao District lawyer Jose Cunha de Magalhaes e Meneses will review the case files which contain details of forensic evidence and police interviews.

Sousa said he believed the prosecutor would quickly decide whether to take action.

Britain's Sky News reported that Portuguese police have found DNA evidence—a full match—indicating that Madeleine's body was in the trunk of a car the McCanns rented five weeks after her disappearance. The station cited unidentified sources. Police would not confirm the report.

Portugal's national police chief Alipio Ribeiro suggested on Monday night, however, that the forensic tests had not been conclusive. *AP*

Colombia captures top cocaine boss wanted by US

COLOMBIAN drug trafficker, Diego Montoya, with his hands bound, arrives escorted by Colombian soldiers to a military base in Bogota, on Monday, Sept. 10. AP

BOGOTA—COLOMBIA'S TOP DRUG LORD, who earned the title "boss of bosses" for smuggling hundreds of tons of cocaine to the United States, was captured on Monday, the country's biggest narcotics arrest in a decade.

Soldiers surrounded Diego Montoya, also known as Don Diego, in a farmhouse where he was hiding with his mother and several other people near the western coffee town of Armenia, capping a more than seven-year manhunt.

He was on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list in the United States and was the subject of a $5 million reward. He is expected to be extradited to the United States for trial.

"This shows our commitment to the fight against drug trafficking, which is a matter of national security in Colombia," Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos told reporters.

The bearded 104 kg Montoya, known for his burly physique and links to right-wing paramilitary militias, was turned over to law enforcement officials after arriving in the capital city Bogota in a military plane wearing a black T-shirt, gray pants and handcuffs.

He helped found the Norte del Valle cartel, the only Colombian gang that still controls all areas of the business from the cultivation of coca plants, to production of cocaine and its exportation. *Reuters*

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Editor Luverne B. Gueco

The WORLD

Bin Laden taunts US on 9/11 anniversary

NEW YORK—AL-QAIDA CHIEF OSAMA BIN LADEN EULOGIZED one of the Sept. 11 hijackers in a video released on Tuesday's sixth anniversary of the attacks that still traumatize the United States.

As Americans remembered the almost 3,000 people killed, attempted bomb attacks and security alerts kept the world on terrorist alert. One huge bomb was disarmed in Ankara and German police launched a major operation at a US military base after receiving threats.

The al-Qaida leader was seen in a still image on the new video in which he gives a commentary praising hijacker Walid al-Shehri, CNN television reported.

Bin Laden hailed the hijacker as a "young man who personally penetrated the most extreme degrees of danger and is a rarity among men: one of the 19 champions (may Allah have mercy on them all)," Intelcenter said.

Al-Shehri, a Saudi national, was aboard American Airlines Flight 11, the first jet to crash into the World Trade Center in New York on Sept. 11, 2001.

IntelCenter, a US-based organization that monitors Islamic militant websites, said it had a copy of the video which lasts 47 minutes and does not include moving images of Bin Laden.

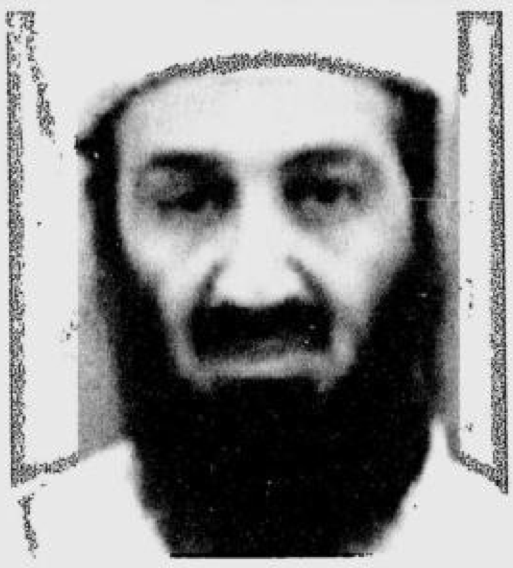
IntelCenter said the video is titled: "The Wills of the Heroes of the Raids on New York and Washington, The Will of the Martyr (As We See Him) Abu Mus'ab Walid al-Shehri, With a Forward by Sheikh Osama bin Laden."

In a tape released on Friday, Bin Laden mocked the United States as "weak" and threatened to escalate the war in Iraq.

News of the latest video emerged before the United States was to hold ceremonies to remember the dead from New York's Twin Towers, the US Defense Department headquarters in Washington and a hijacked plane that crashed into a field in Pennsylvania.

Also on the anniversary, Turkish police defused a powerful bomb hidden under a bus in central Ankara where a link to Sept. 11 was immediately made.

The Turkish capital's governor, Kemal Onal, said the bomb was hidden under a bus in a car park. "The meticulous work of the police averted a possible catastrophe," he told journalists.



BIN LADEN AFP

German police launched a major operation at the Spangdahlem US military airport after US forces received threats by telephone, police said.

The base received an anonymous call on Monday but a police spokesperson said it was possible it was a hoax.

In New York, where 2,749 people were killed when two hijacked planes plowed into the World Trade Center, rescue workers were to read out the names of the dead in a solemn ceremony.

Unlike in past years, most of the ceremony will be held at a park near Ground Zero, the area where the Twin Towers once stood, and not on the site, where a memorial and other new buildings are being constructed. *AFP*

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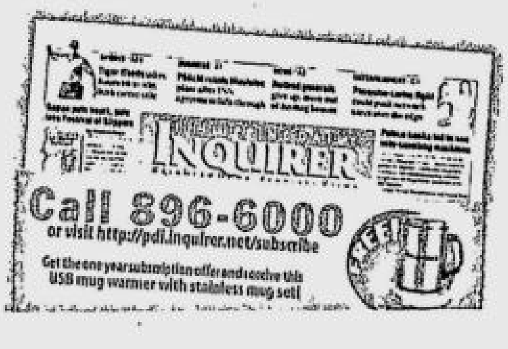

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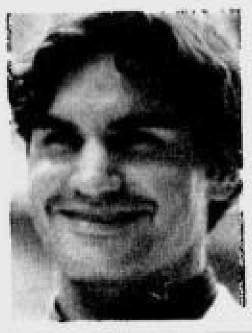
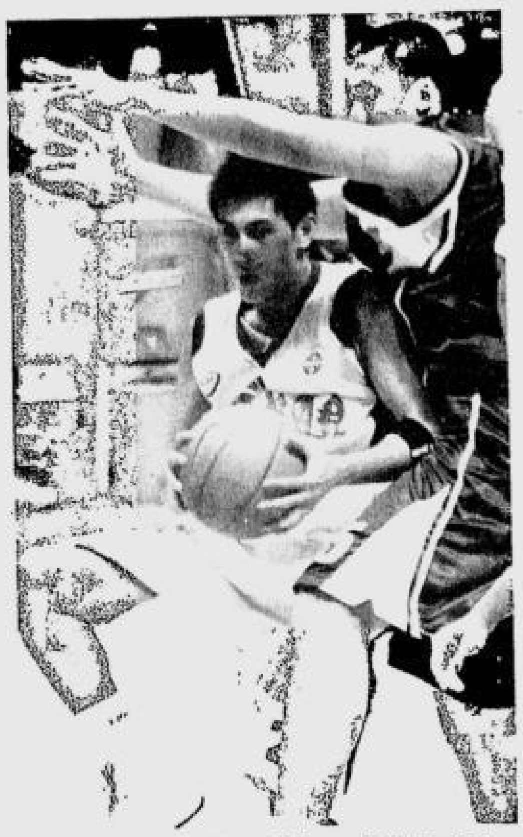


NCAA Final 4 showdowns begin



LETRAN'S Rafael Jazul drives off JRU's Alvin Se in their hotly contested elimination-round match won by the Knights. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Red Lions battle Cards; Knights take on Bombers

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HAVING ACCOMPLISHED WHAT HE SET out to do in the first place, Mapua coach Leo Isaac has little pretensions going into the NCAA Final Four.

"Let's not fool ourselves," said the former league MVP. "Back in our days in the 1980s, when we dominated the eliminations, we ended up winning the title."

"That was our time," added Isaac. "Now it's their (San Beda's) time."

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
10 a.m.—Letran vs San Beda (Jrs)
12 noon—San Sebastian vs Jose Rizal (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Letran vs Jose Rizal (Srs)
4 p.m.—San Beda vs Mapua (Srs)

But the Cardinals, despite achieving their preseason goal of making the Final Four right on Isaac's maiden year as head coach, are not saying they will simply march into the Araneta Coliseum today and willingly play the role of Lion fodder.

"We will fight and try to beat San Beda and then we'll see what happens next," said Mapua skipper Sean Co, who accompanied Isaac during Monday's press conference among Final Four contenders.

Red Lions coach Frankie Lim didn't attend the session but sent assistant JB Sison and team captain Yousif Aljamal on his behalf.

"We learned from what happened last year, we can't take Mapua lightly," said Aljamal, who will see action after sitting out the last two games of the eliminations.

The PBA-bound forward, who was front and center of a controversy that rocked the league this season, was referring to the 2006 season when the Lions struggled to beat the Cardinals in the first game of the Final Four.

At any rate, defending champion San Beda has a trump card—a twice-to-beat advantage—to flash against Mapua, having finished the eliminations on top of everyone else.

It's the same edge second-ranked Letran will carry against Jose Rizal U in the other semifinal match. Although for the Bombers, that twice-to-beat edge is the least of their woes.

"[Letran] coach Louie Alas has been there [Final Four] many times before, while the three of us [Isaac and Lim] are just first-timers," said JRU coach Ariel Vanguardia.

"He knows what to do and is very familiar with the pressure," added Vanguardia, who worked as Alas' deputy for 10 years in the MBA, PBL and PBA.

But Alas has mutual respect for Vanguardia, whose team dealt the Knights' first defeat this season, saying proper execution of plays will be the key in the series.

If San Beda and Letran prevail, Game 1 of the best-of-three finals starts next week, according to league officials.

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   C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket
   D. Draws will be announced on leading newspapers
3. For Visayas and Mindanao Subscribers:
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   15-digit lotto ticket is the last 15 numbers in the 35 digit ticket number.
   Ex. LOTTO 36890000017408-5
   B. Confirmation message with reference number will be sent to your phone
   MM:DD:YY< hh:mm:ss. Natanggap ng Lotto 2nd Chance Panalo ang entry mo <15-digit ticket#>
   Meron kang 1 entry <reference#>. Ang draw date nito ay sa <mm/dd/yy>.
   Ipakita ang orihinal na ticket sa pag claim ng prize. 18 years old pataas lang ang pwedeng sumali
   C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket
   D. Draws will be announced on leading newspapers
4. Weekly validity period is from 12:00am Monday to 11:59pm Sunday. All tickets bought from Monday to Sunday should be sent in by Sunday 11:59pm to qualify. P2.50 per entry.

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Bayron, V'roman seek RP Am repeats

JAY BAYRON AND CARMELETTE VILLAROMAN seek their second straight titles as they head talent-laden rosters in today's opening round of the 2007 Philippine Amateur Golf Open Championships at the Iloilo Golf and Country Club in Iloilo City.

Bayron overpowered Tonton Asistio, 7 and 6, in their 36-hole men's showdown while Villaroman foiled the then 12-year-old Dottie Ardina's bid to become the tournament's youngest winner via a 4-and-3 win last year.

Bayron followed up that championship with victories in the DHL-WWWExpress Open and two tournaments abroad to underscore his stature as the country's ace amateur.

With the absence of Ardina and two other junior golf standouts this time, the prospects of a repeat victory seems brighter for Villaroman in the five-day event conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Ardina, who played in two pro tournaments on the Ladies European Tour recently, and ICTSI teammates Mia Piccio and Cyna Rodriguez were unable to excuse themselves from her study grants at Pendleton Academy in Florida.

Tipped to crowd Villaroman at the top are Chihiro Ikeda, Bambee dela Paz, Anya Tanpinco, Lora Roberto, Crystal Superal and Louise Manalo.

Bayron is expected to encounter stiff resistance from Ferdie Aunzo and Mark Fernando, the co-winners of the recent national team qualifers at the Riviera in Silang, Cavite, as well as fellow RP team members Anthony Fernando, Jhonnel Ababa and Mike Bibat.

Iloilo Golf and Country Club president Frankie Locsin, IGCC vice president Mark Rivera and NGAP secretary general Jun Galindez will hit the ceremonial drive to kick off the event, featuring a stroke play format in the first two days.

The top 32 players in the men's division and the top 16 in the women's side after 36 holes will advance to the match play phase starting Friday.

UCAA CAGING

Doves tie dour Generals

GAMES TODAY
(*DLSU-Dasma Gym*)
10 a.m.—ACSAT vs EAC
11:30 a.m.—UCN vs PSBA
1 p.m.—Las Piñas College vs DLSU-D
2:30 p.m.—SFC vs Olivarez

THE ST. FRANCIS OF Assisi Doves brought down the undermanned Emilio Aguinaldo College Generals, 74-61, Monday to gain a share of the lead with their victims in the 6th Universities and Colleges Athletic Association men's basketball tournament at the Olivarez College gym.

The Doves posted their sixth win in seventh matches after the first round.

Meanwhile, eight Generals, including key men John Valderama and Nichole Hubalde, were suspended for one game following Saturday's fight-marred clash with La Salle-Dasmariñas.

Other matches: Asian College of Science and Technology (5-2) d. PSBA, 106-72; Las Piñas College (3-4) d. Universal College of Nursing, 70-64.

Jins plunge into action in nat'l meet

NATIONAL TEAM MEMBERS AND DOHA Asian Games silver medalists Tshomlee Go and Marie Antoinette Rivero lead the cream of the country's taekwondo crop vying for top honors in the 2007 Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships which kicks off today at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

Elimination matches in the senior men's and women's divisions start off hostilities at 10 a.m. with the opening rites set at 4 p.m.

Aside from members of the national team gearing up for various overseas competitions—including the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand in December and next year's Beijing Olympics—future stars from the children and junior ranks will also strut their wares.

The other big guns competing are Japoy Lizardo, Donald Geisler III, Michael Alejandrino, Alex Briones, Ernesto Mendoza III, Billy Corral, Kathleen Eunice Alora, Gerrielyn Aranzaso, Sabrina Simbulan, Lorelie Catalan, Jeffrey Figueroa, Manuel Rivero Jr., Criselda Roxas, Esther Marie Singson and Kirstie Elaine Alora.

To be disputed in the seniors and juniors divisions are seven weight categories, including finweight, fly, bantam, feather, light, welter and middle/heavy. Six weight titles are up for grabs in the children's class (11-13 years old).

The eliminations in the juniors and children divisions will be held Friday and Saturday and the finals in both classes on Sunday.

The opening rites will be graced by Samsung officials, led by CEO Spencer Shim, VP for IT Kim Bong-wan, VP for consumer Jang Dong-ha, GM for marketing Jerry Lacson, and ad and promo manager Angie Limbaco.

ATENEO'S Emmanuel Monfort (left) and La Salle's Pocholo Villanueva race for the loose ball in Sunday's match won by the Blue Eagles, 89-87. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Green Archers ready to avert Warrior sweep

By Jasmine W. Payo

IF EVER THERE WAS A TIME FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF the East to worry about completing a sweep of the elimination round, that would be the hours between today and Thursday.

Not only is the last game of such a task the toughest to win, UE will be meeting a La Salle team that is not only peaking at the right time, but also aching to get over a painful defeat at the hands of an archrival.

Worse even is the fact that La Salle badly needs to win its Thursday outing against UE.

"We don't want to dwell on the past," said coach Franz Pumaren, denying talks that the Green Archers plan to protest anew their slim loss to the Blue Eagles, 89-87, in the UAAP men's basketball tournament last Sunday.

"I think we played well in that game. They (Ateneo) just shot very well. It could have gone either way."

The Green Archers, however, will focus on what is within their grasp: A victory over the Warriors will assure La Salle of at least a tie for the second twice-to-beat advantage.

"At this stage, we're still playing in spurts," said Pumaren. "We make a run and then we relax."

The Warriors, mentored by Pumaren's younger brother Dindo, overpowered the Archers, 96-76, in the first round.

Still, Pumaren thinks that his Archers have a shot in halting a 14-0 sweep that will earn the Warriors a slot in the best-of-three Finals.

"I think we've grown (since the first round)," he said. "It has been a learning process for us. We're still feeling our way [through the] league actually. Being away from the limelight for one year (due to the league suspension), you can easily see the difference."

More bad news for the Warriors: La Salle has even more motivation to win that game. La Salle and Ateneo, tied for second at 9-4, and Ateneo's last assignment is a National U squad that no longer is playing for anything.

That means the Blue Eagles have a clear shot at win No. 10.

"This team is capable," said Pumaren of La Salle's chances.

Olympians set out for Naascu title clincher vs Hawks today

GAMES TODAY
(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
2 p.m.—UM vs STI
(Game 2)

STI GOES FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP clincher today when it goes up again against University of Manila in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) men's basketball title series at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The Olympians trampled the Hawks, 86-72, last Saturday to zero in on their maiden title in their third consecutive finals appearance in the seven-year-old league.

With its old reliables shackled by UM defenses, guard Haddi Porto exploded with 21 points to tilt the balance in favor of STI.

Still, STI coach Vic Ycasiano said they will not let their guard down against the Hawks, who are totally capable of squaring the best-of-three series.

UM president Ernesto Delos Santos' bench remains confident of coach Ato Tolentino's capacity to turn the series around.

"He is a pressure coach, he is capable of getting the best out of every player," Delos Santos said of the five-time Coach of the Year.

"We will play very hard and give it our best shot," said Tolentino, who steered Philippine Christian U to the NCAA title and UM to its fifth straight Naascu crown, capped by a historic 82-game winning streak.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Chandler shines as Koreans flog Aces

June Navarro

MARQUIN CHANDLER WAXED hot right from the start as KT&G flattened Alaska, 102-86, last night in the 2007-2008 Philippine Basketball Association Preseason Games at The Arena in San Juan.

Unlike his debut against the Welcoat Dragons, Chandler got his rhythm early and with a support cast of Jin Won Hwang, Hee Jong Joo and Hyun Ho Lee, the Koreans never looked back after taking a 36-24 spread in the opening quarter.

The former Purefoods import struggled completely during KT&G's opener opposite Welcoat but picked up enough steam just in time to hold off the Joe Devance-powered Dragons.

This time, Chandler fueled a 19-6 tear after a JR Quiñahan briefly gave Alaska an 18-17 lead on a putback to put the Koreans on the driver's seat for the remainder of the match.

Rookie Ken Bono joined hands with Tony Dela Cruz and Rensy Bajar to keep the Aces within striking distance, 44-41, but the Aces couldn't sustain what they started and dropped back into a hole.

Chandler paced the Koreans with 34 points while Hwang and import Robert Cummings added 17 and 13 each for KT&G, which will face San Miguel Beer today before wrapping up its stint against Red Bull and Coca-Cola.

As a guest team, the games of KT&G will not be reflected on the standings.

The scores:

KT&G 102—Chandler 34, Hwang 17, Cummings 13, Joo 10, Kim 9, Yang 7, Lee 7, Park 3, Jeon 2, Shin 0, Eun 0.

ALASKA 84—Hugnatan 16, Miller 13, Bono 11, Bajar 8, Aban 7, Dela Cruz 7, Ferriols 6, Quinahan 6, Thoss 3, Gonzales 3, Singson 2, Laure 2, Luanzon 0.

Quarters: 36-24, 59-46, 81-72, 102-84

Harsh truths—no symbols—for Pacquiao

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—THIS FACTUAL REPORT is for Manny Pacquiao, the most famous Filipino of our time.

"When I was pregnant with our first son, we had an argument and my husband slapped me... he forced me to walk in circles so many times in the vicinity of Hollywood Presbyterian Queen of Angels Hospital in order to induce me to give birth to our first son, accusing me of intentionally refusing to give birth."

That statement forms part of an affidavit filed with the Los Angeles Superior Court which was acquired by the INQUIRER on Monday.

Pacquiao is terribly busy preparing for his next fight, so he's free to treat this as cheap gossip or pure rubbish.

The case itself could also be both insignificant and irrelevant to Pacquiao that it cannot be expected to come in the way when he picks which pair of fighting shoes to wear in his next big fight on Oct. 6 in Las Vegas.

* * *

However, it so happens that the accused in the case is someone Pacquiao openly trusts.

This same person, ranked as a pest by adversaries, has visibly spawned tension and disorder in Pacquiao's gated Pallazzo apartment located on the classy side of La Brea.

Needless to say, we find it our duty to warn the boxing hero he would be needing more than a can of insect repellant when he returns here for the final push in his training against Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera.

Before anything else, my apologies for again reporting on the Pallazzo mess, an issue we had tried to put to rest. For the record, we did make a pact last week that the column on the case of the alleged pest would be the last on the matter.

However, we have no choice but break our word after it turned out that truth had been trampled by the subject of that column, who wantonly claimed he was faultless, neat, with no impending case or complaint whatsoever.

* * *

Anyway, to show we're not out to mangle anybody's reputation, we will no longer name names.

Of course, we trust Pacquiao already knows who and what we mean, so he can pick it from there why Los Angeles cops had to be called into his apartment the other Sunday.

Maybe this need not be told but, in order to get his side, we called the accused, met with him, and presented the court papers yesterday.

Well, at first, he tried to brush them off, saying he did not know anything about the case. Then, in a silly turnaround, he next claimed Pacquiao already had a copy of the complaint, insisting this was all hogwash.

"In the first place, why are you covering me like a celebrity, I'm nobody here," he reprimanded this reporter.

* * *

He had a point there. So, without exactly apologizing, I retreated, took the usual 40-minute walk on the baking streets back to this borrowed bed space, to plot a new column instead.

But hold it, please. I was set to deposit the court papers in the garbage bin. But, upon reading the fine print, it would become clear that the case against the accused was true, and supported by a retraining order.

Here are samplers: In case number BD436768 at the Los Angeles Superior Court (111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012), there's a strict order for the accused "not to do the following things to the protected people listed," namely his wife and two kids:

a) Harass, attack, strike, threaten, assault (sexually or otherwise), hit, follow, stalk, molest, destroy personal property, disturb the peace, keep under surveillance, or block movements.

b) Contact (either directly or indirectly), or telephone, or send messages or mail or e-mail.

The accused must stay at least 100 yards away from the persons listed, whether they be at home, in school or on the job.

The accused also cannot own, possess, have, buy or try to buy, receive or try to receive, or in any other way get a gun or firearm.

The retraining order will be imposed until 11:59 p.m., October 30, 2009 on the accused, described in the order sheet as with "black hair, brown eyes, age 36."

* * *

You see, it was a saucy charge sheet filed by the battered wife, but we will instead leave the papers at Wild Card, in case Pacquiao would care to pick them up later in the month.

There are more salient points, but space is of the essence here.

Here's hoping Pacquiao does not treat all the labels and descriptions of his apartment caretaker, who's said to advise the boxing superstar on media and other matters, as purely metaphoric—the way we had foolishly made it appear earlier.

This man who is being monitored by the police here, as he basks in the glory of Pacquiao's fame, is no ordinary, insignificant insect.

He's the Real Deal, a poor man's Rasputin, and there's nothing symbolic in this.

SPORTSWATCH

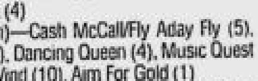
Del Rosario, David seek title clinchers in Subic jet ski leg

TOP CONTENDERS BRACE FOR A HECTIC battle when the championship round of the 2007 Petron-JSAP National Jet Ski Series on Saturday at the Waterfront Beach of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Focus will be on the premiere Expert Runabout 1200 Open and the Novice 4-strokes classes where defending champion Paul del Rosario and top Novice rider Robbie David are seeking title-clinching victories.

Del Rosario hopes to wrap up the Rider of the Year award via a third consecutive sweep of his division while David is gunning for a decisive victory over Sammy Boy Parilla to claim the Novice Rider of the Year plum.

Jam Mangio likewise aims to establish herself as the No. 1 female rider as she tries to capture the Women's Runabout title.



BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)-Court House (1), Royal Heiress (3), Sugar Daddy (4)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Kimagure/Striking Cat (1), Sellmade (2), Rho Sig (3), Distinctive Dancer (7)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Mr. Godfather (6), Good Riddance (7), Kyla's Kiss (2), Sava (4)

Race 4—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Cash McCall/Fly Aday Fly (5), Lord Of The Ring (8), Dancing Queen (4), Music Quest (3), Sound Of The Wind (10), Aim For Gold (1)

Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Step On The Gas (3), Victory Ranger (4), Bundok Peninsula (7), Hakuna Matata/Amazing Firenze (5), Run Like D'Wind (1)

Race 6—Master Professor/Mary Jane Bomb (2), Astimegoesby (3), Heart Of The Wind (4), Firehouse (5)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Xtreme Heat/Formidable Ella (2), Batang Westside (8), White Princess (9), I Love This Game (1), Flavorofthemonth (6)

Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Best Hand (5), She Boom (6), Rock Attack Attack (8), Yankee Clipper (1), Western Dancer (11), Bold Lucky (9)

DESERT BIDDERS: The RP Davis Cup squad (from left), Arcilla, Tierro, Mamiit and Taino.

GROUP 1 FINAL

RP Cuppers all set vs Kuwaitis

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NOW JUST A SUN-SCORCHED DESERT and a dangerous band of Kuwaiti netters stand in the way of the Philippines' long journey back to Davis Cup's Group 1.

A crack team bannered by Fil-Americans Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino flies to Meshref, Kuwait, on Monday to battle the Kuwaitis in their Asia-Oceania Group 2 tie on Sept. 21-23.

"We have [good] chances," Cris Cuarto, who will make his debut as RP coach, told yesterday's PSA Forum at Shakey's UN Avenue. "We have the edge against Kuwait. We are familiar with the players on the other side."

The Philippines won over the Kuwaitis, 3-2, the last time they clashed in a Davis Cup tie in 2002 in Manila.

Kuwait No.1 Mohammad Ghareeb, however, got Mamiit's number during their Doha Asian Games encounter last year. And their singles match-up on opening day just might dictate the trend of the tie, according to Cuarto.

Johnny Arcilla and Patrick John Tierro are the other members of the squad that won over Pakistan and New Zealand this year. Martin Misa is the team's non-playing captain.

The Philippines secures a Group 1 slot—a feat it achieved 10 years ago with a team built around Joseph Lizardo and Bobby Angelo—with a victory over Kuwait.

The country's biggest Davis Cup achievement came in 1991, when another squad that included Felix Barrientos, Roland So, Camoy Palahang and Danilo Pila, topped Group 1 with rousing victories over China and Japan.

That group title gave the Filipinos a berth in the World Group qualifying where they eventually lost to a powerful Swedish side, 5-0.

"That's what keeping us motivated," said the 21-year-old Tierro, who also appeared in the session sponsored by Shakey's and Pagcor together with the 27-year-old Arcilla. "We're definitely ready for this."

Mamiit and Taino will fly straight to Kuwait from the United States, according to Cuarto.

The other members of the Kuwait team seeing action in their first-ever Group II final are Mohammad-Khaliq Siddiq, Ahmad Rabeea Muhammad and Ali Ismaeel.

Cuarto said the Filipinos would have to bear playing in temperatures between 40 and 50 degrees Celcius in the open-air hardcourt of the Bassam Al-Mutawa Tennis Center.

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SPORTS

ROGER Federer's just two "Slams" shy of history. REUTERS

Master of his trade

NEW YORK—ROGER FEDERER'S DEFEAT of Novak Djokovic in the US Open final on Sunday lacked the panache of some of his previous Grand Slam wins, but what it showed was a player who is the master of his trade.

Like Tiger Woods leading going into the final day of a major golf tournament, Federer, clay courts apart, is proving to be unbeatable when the winning post is in sight.

The Swiss maestro, at 26, has now reached 14 Grand Slam finals and he has won 12 of them, which translates into a best ever winning conversion rate of 85 percent. Only Rafael Nadal on clay in Paris in the last two years has bettered him.

The recipe for such success, he says, is learning from all he has gone through in a an unmatched professional career dating back to 1998 and knowing how to close out the big games.

"I didn't lose a set in the last three matches, but they were close and I came through," he said. "It's probably because I'm experienced and I'm confident about my play.

"The other guys missed their chances. In the end having beating (Andy) Roddick, (Nikolay) Davydenko and Djokovic, all in straight sets, is an incredible effort for me."

Federer is also a sharp and enthusiastic observer of the way the sport is developing over the course of the years.

When he first started out, his idol Pete Sampras was the dominant force in tennis and out-and-out serve-and-volleyers like Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg were still to be found competing for the Grand Slam titles.

The young Federer says he modelled his early game on them but had the foresight to see that things were changing.

"The new string generation came along where returning and passing shots were made easier. It was harder to attack in some ways," he said.

"But at the same time that helps me now because I do have the game to attack. I do have the solid volleys, I do have the opportunities and the option if I have to.

"It's good that I did take some chances when I was young. It's been a long road. I've had to work hard on my game." *AFP*

Sharapova drops to No. 4

NEW YORK—US OPEN RUNNER-UP SVETlana Kuznetsova moved up to No. 2 in the WTA Tour rankings Monday, climbing two places behind Justine Henin despite a straight-set loss to the Belgian in Saturday's final of the season's last Grand Slam.

With Jelena Jankovic in third, Maria Sharapova dropped from No. 2 to No. 4 after her title defense at Flushing Meadows ended with a third-round upset loss.

Venus Williams climbed five spots to No. 9 in the rankings Monday, meaning she and her sister, No. 7 Serena, are both in the top 10 for the first time in nearly two years—even though both lost in straight sets at the US Open to Henin. *AP*

US not fixing rugby roster even if it's 'broke'

MONTPELLIER, FRANCE—COACH PETER Thorburn has an interesting philosophy for his team's Rugby World Cup game against Tonga: Don't change a losing formula.

Although the US Eagles lost, 28-10, to England in Lens on Saturday in their opening Group A game, the way the underdog Americans made the defending world champion toil for victory was widely seen as a moral victory.

So Thorburn has named an unchanged team for Wednesday's Tonga game.

"Some people think it is silly going in with the same team, but we feel it is the best way to go forward at the moment," he said.

And he said the Americans wouldn't change their game plan for the Tongans.

Tonga has optimistically set its sights on qualifying by ending in the top two of a group that also contains South Africa, England and Samoa. *AP*

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LITHUANIA'S Linas Kleiza (left) defends France's Tony Parker. Kleiza and Parker are just two of international stars in the NBA seeing action in the Fiba-Europe tilt. REUTERS

Lithuania nips France

MADRID, SPAIN—LITHUANIA LIMITED Tony Parker to 11 points and defeated three-time champion France, 88-73, on Monday to remain one of two unbeaten teams at the European Basketball Championship.

Sarunas Jasikevicius had 14 points and seven assists, and set up Ramunas Siskauskas and Darius Songaila for key baskets.

"They were stronger than us, that's it," said Parker, who was held 14 points below his tournament average.

Also in Group F, Marco Belinelli scored six of his 17 points in overtime to help Italy eliminate Turkey, 84-75.

Toronto Raptors center Andrea Bargnani had have of his 12 points in the extra period, as Italy overcame an early 15-point deficit.

"All of the game the team was waiting for Bargnani, and in overtime he showed he knows how to score and Turkey froze," Italy coach Carlo Recalcati said.

Turkey was led by 34 points from Hidayet Turkoglu.

Like Lithuania, Slovenia won its fifth in as many games, routing Germany, 77-47—a result that qualified France for the quarterfinals.

Lithuania next plays Slovenia on Wednesday for top spot in Group F. France plays last-place Turkey in its final game. The winner between Italy and Germany will take the final berth from the group in the quarterfinals. *AP*

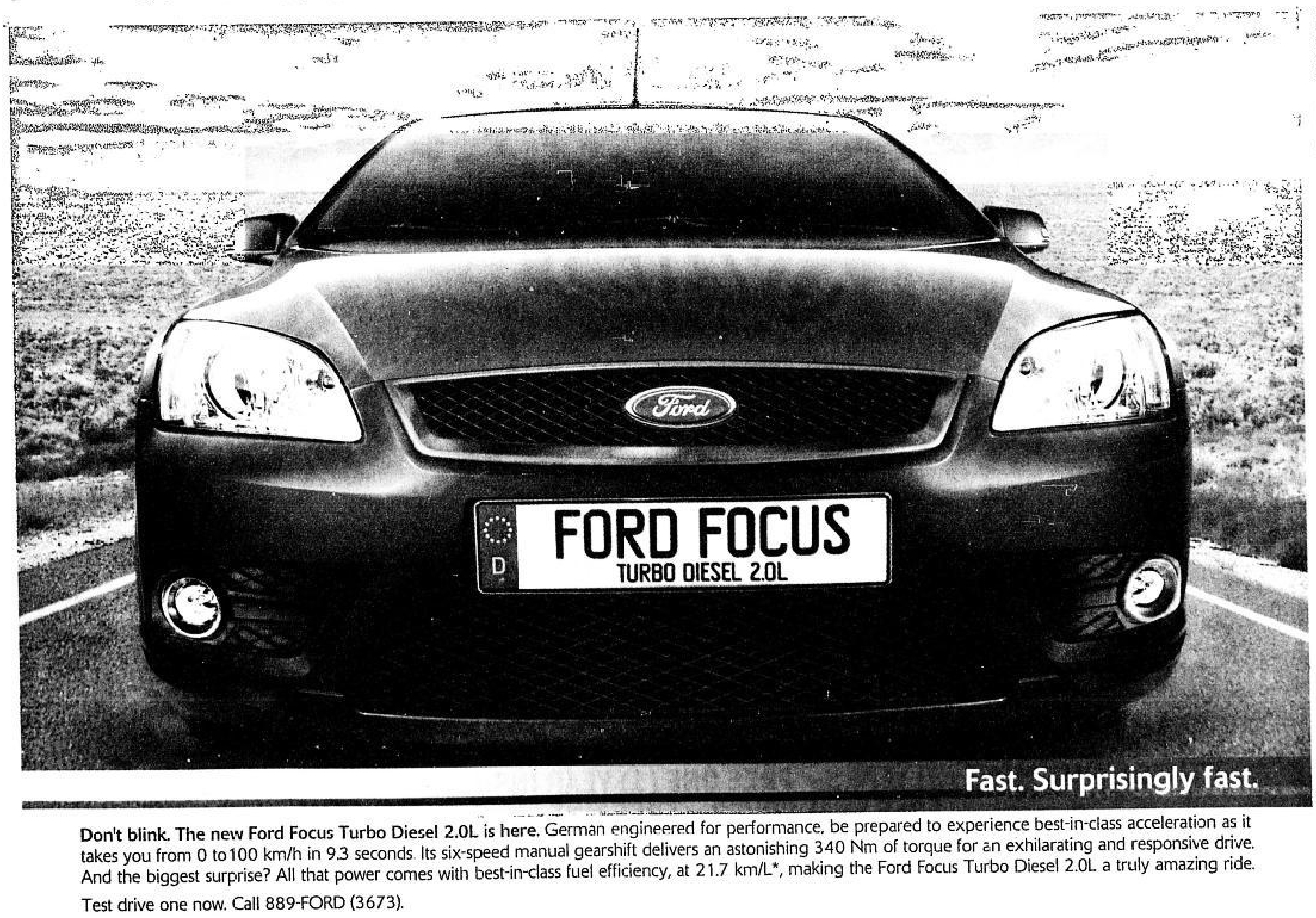
SPORTS WATCH

LGBA series starts Friday

MEMBERS OF THE Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) gear up for battle at Lucky Sports Complex (Brgy. Calihan, San Francisco, San Pablo City) as the LGBA 7-stag derby series formally starts on Friday, Sept. 14. LGBA members must submit entries tomorrow, Thursday, Sept. 13 at LGBA office (9267808, 9245072 and 9245051 loc. 128) from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Elimination rounds are also lined up at San Juan Coliseum on Sept. 19 and 22. At present, LGBA has 248 members.

SJC Derby: kicks off today

THE SECOND ROUND of the SJC 2nd Anniversary 6-stag derby gets going today at the San Juan Coliseum. Today's 3-stag round will feature some 90 fights. The 4-stag finals will be held on Saturday, Sept. 15. A guaranteed prize of P2 million will be divided among the winners. Pit manager Renato Shio also announced that aficionados may win valuable appliances in the raffle draw. SJC's No Entry Fee Fastest Win One-Cock "Ulutan" starts tomorrow. For details, call 7255369 and 7256563.



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Exports jumped 4.5% in July to $4.2B

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Electronics recover with 5.1% growth

By Michelle V. Remo

EXPORTS ROSE AT A FASTER PACE OF 4.5 PERCENT to $4.2 billion in July from a year ago as electronics rebounded from the previous month's contraction.

Electronics exports, accounting for 59 percent of the total earnings for July, rose 5.1 percent to $2.48 billion.

In June, exports rose by a measly 1.5 percent to $4.12 billion as electronics exports contracted by 1.7 percent.

In June, exports rose by a measly 1.5 percent to $4.12 billion as electronics exports contracted by 1.7

EXPORTS/ B4

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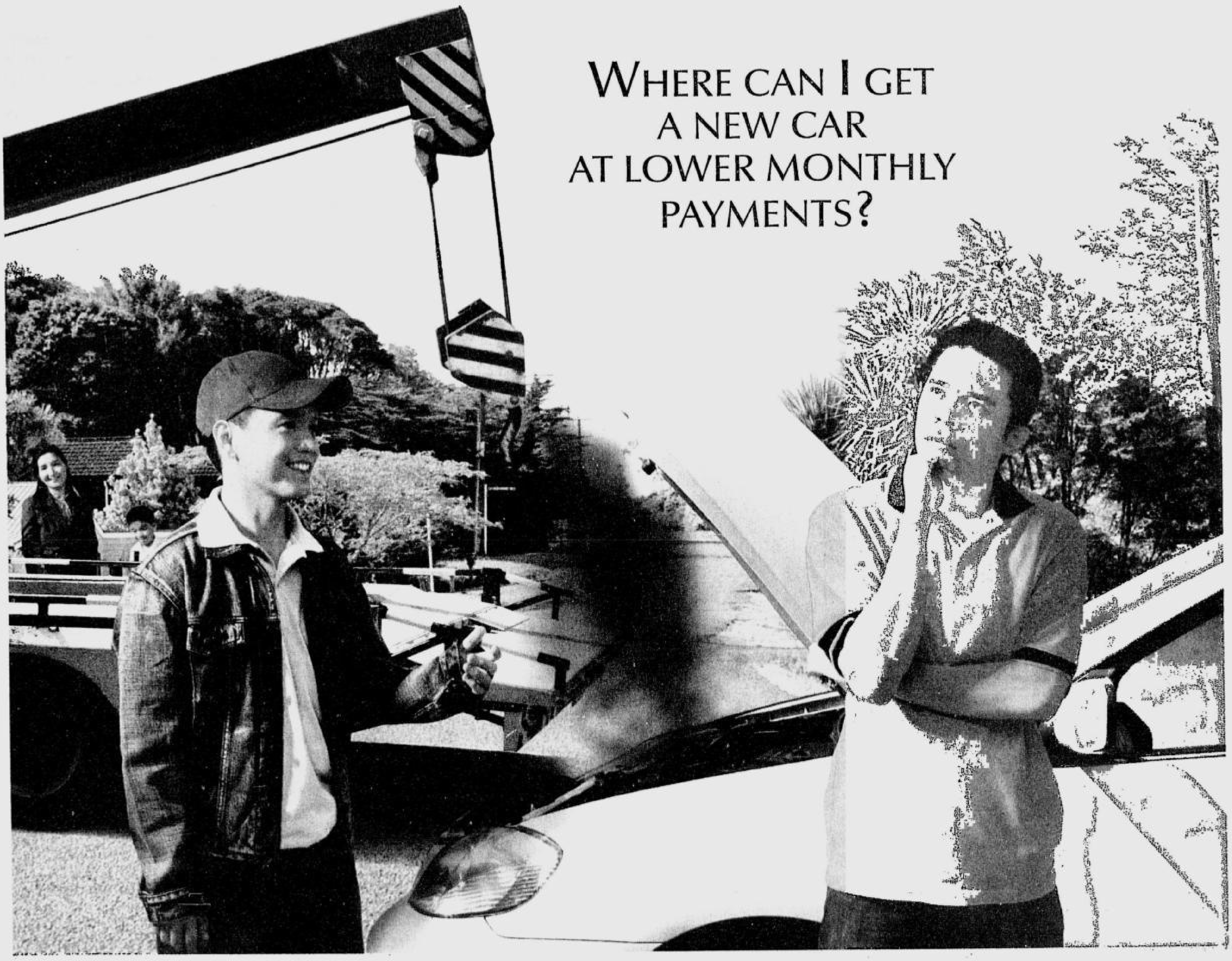
▨ **5 banks offer to fund** gov't buyout of MRT /B5



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Ayala allots ₱2.5B to buy back own shares

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

AYALA CORP., ONE OF THE COUNTRY's biggest conglomerates, yesterday implemented a plan that will enable it to protect its share price against a volatile market by buying up to P2.5 billion of its own shares in the stock market.

Ayala's move, however, has not induced other conglomerates—SM Investments Corp. of taipan Henry Sy, Benpres Holdings Corp. and JG Summit Holdings of tycoon John Gokongwei—to follow suit, the INQUIRER learned from these companies.

Ayala closed higher by 1.6 percent or P7.50 yesterday to P470 a share, cushioned against the market's 13-point fall. Its 52-week high was P680 a share, data from the PSE showed.

> 'Show of confidence in its own stock'

Ayala's buyback program involves 1.3 percent of its current market capital of P195 billion, it said in a disclosure to the stock exchange.

Ayala said the program would end upon the full usage of the allotment.

The buyback program aims to boost shareholder value whenever the stock is trading at a price discount as perceived by the company, which does not reflect its corporate value based on the stock prices of the individual units making up the holding company, Ayala said.

Ayala added that the program likewise provided the opportunity to repurchase shares when these were undervalued and would send a positive signal to investors of the company's confidence in its own shares.

Ayala also stressed that the program would not affect any of the company's prospective and existing projects and investments, including its ongoing liabilities management program.

"We think the program should be bullish as it reflects the confidence of management on its own stock price amid market's volatility," JP Morgan said in a study.

ATR Kim Eng also agreed that the buyback program would send a positive signal to investors.

"The buyback program will have a small impact on net asset value and earnings. In our opinion Ayala directors are sending a signal that the stock is undervalued at current levels," ATR Kim Eng said.

Stocks close lower ahead of Estrada verdict

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.4-PERcent lower yesterday due to concerns over possible unrest stemming from the impending verdict of deposed President Joseph Estrada, dealers said.

They said continuing concerns over the shaky outlook for the US economy also weighed down on the market.

The composite index ended down 13.11 points at 3,267.97 on volume of 2.9 billion shares worth P3.7 billion.

There were 83 decliners and 30 advancers, while 51 stocks were flat.

This was its worst finish in two weeks but it was still off the day's low of 3,258.09. The all-share index fell 11.93 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,067.86.

"The political tension is causing some nervousness, and unfortunately we also have to contend with external concerns," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities.

The Philippine military yesterday went on high alert to thwart violence that could explode when the court hands down its verdict on Estrada, who is facing charges of illegally amassing hundreds of millions of pesos from tax kickbacks and bribes from illegal gambling operators when he was still president.

Despite his ouster through a military-backed popular uprising in 2001, the former movie actor still enjoys the support of many poor Filipinos, while his successor Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo suffers from low popularity ratings. *AFP*

CURRENCIES

September 11, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.724638	1	46.7
Japan	Yen	0.006372	0.008794	0.4107
United Kingdom	Pound	1.469203	2.0275	94.6843
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.093195	0.128609	6.006
Switzerland	Franc	0.610684	0.842744	39.3561
Canada	Dollar	0.688885	0.950661	44.3959
Singapore	Dollar	0.475703	0.65647	30.6571
Australia	Dollar	0.596754	0.82352	38.4584
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.92232	2.652801	123.8858
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.193237	0.266667	12.4533
Brunei	Dollar	0.474146	0.654322	30.5568
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000077	0.000106	0.005
Thailand	Baht	0.022351	0.030845	1.4405
UAE	Dirham	0.197347	0.272339	12.7182
Euro	Euro	1	1.38	64.446
Korea	Won	0.000772	0.001065	0.0497
China	Yuan**	0.096343	0.132954	6.209
Denmark	Kroner	0.134309	0.185347	8.6557
India	Rupee	0.017901	0.024704	1.1537
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.206449	0.2849	13.3048
New Zealand	Dollar	0.501896	0.692617	32.3452
Sweden	Kroner	0.10695	0.147591	6.8925
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021856	0.030161	1.4085

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Sept. 10, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 10, 2007

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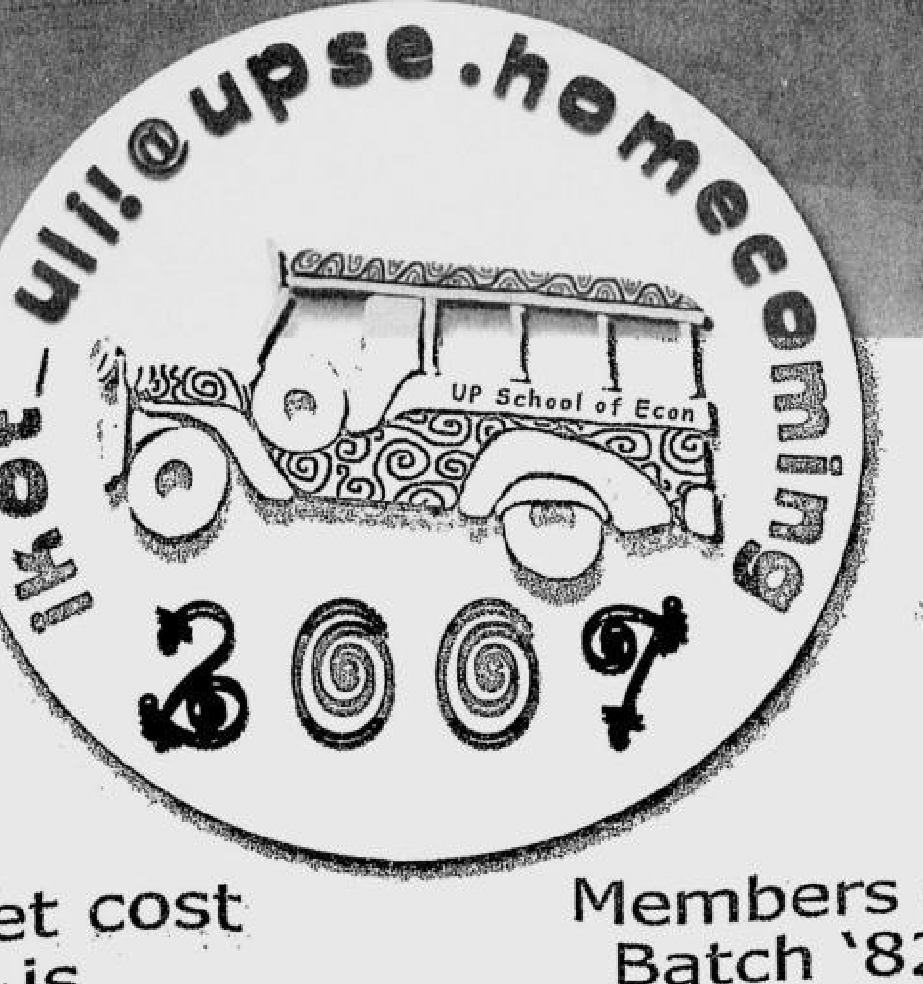

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 11, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9	9	9	9	3,000
73	36.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	57	58.5	57	57	1,429,500
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	62.5	62.5	62	62.5	1,034,200
935	630	China Banking Corp.	800	800	800	800	450
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	480,000
75.5	38	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company	54	54	53.5	53.5	3,882,800
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	44.5	45	44.5	45	3,097,300
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	63	63	63	63	500
39.57	14.57	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	23.5	23.75	23.5	23.5	2,916,400
90	49.5	Security Bank Corp.	71	71	70.5	70.5	356,000
66	42.53	Union Bank of the Philippines	57	57	56	56	40,400
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	80,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2.12	2.14	2.04	2.04	3,070,000
16.25	2.65	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.5	585,900
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	5,000
1,790.00	1,555.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,755.00	1,755.00	1,755.00	1,755.00	780
5	2.95	Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.2	34,108,000
3.1	1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2	2	1.94	1.94	4,000
1,005.00	225	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	770	770	770	770	2,570
2,285.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,250.00	2,285.00	2,250.00	2,285.00	2,910
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	17,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	4.95	5.1	4.95	5	1,580,000
70	47.5	First Gen Corp.	65	65	65	65	504,800
92	45.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	75	75.5	75	75	380,300
15	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.75	13,296,400
105.45	16.36	Manila Electric Company	79	79	73.5	75.5	1,850,900
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.1	6.1	6	6.1	36,289,000
6.5	3.75	Petron Corp.	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.95	7,307,000
14.75	6.7	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	93,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	15,000
1.9	0.95	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.18	1.18	346,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
2.95	1.86	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.88	1.98	45,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25	25	25	25	30,000
61	33	Jollibee Foods Corp.	52	52	51	52	389,600
9	4.7	Pancake House Inc.	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.5	8,000
1.96	0.84	RFM Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	9,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.24	2.24	2.2	2.2	149,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. A	61	61.5	61	61.5	5,400
88	60	San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	62.5	62.5	515,600
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,583,400
0.55	0.205	Vitarich Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	50,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.59	EEI Corp.	4.1	4.15	4	4	218,000
9.2	4.8	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.6	292,000
7	1.28	Republic Cement Corp.	4	4	4	4	20,000
2	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.06	1.08	9,622,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.1	3.15	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	267,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.1	Picop Resources Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	8,000,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.92	A. Soriano Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	16,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.095	0.095	21,100,000
1.28	0.21	APC Group Inc.	0.58	0.59	0.56	0.57	3,400,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. A	2.8	3	2.8	3	199,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. B	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	2,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. A	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	2,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	11,512,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	61,800,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	23,769,000
1.38	0.5	Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	200,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.1	2.1	1,070,000
590	370.83	Ayala Corp.	460	470	460	470	231,370
14.5	7.04	Bacnotan Conso. Industries Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	1,600
5.8	1.18	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.25	3.3	29,554,000
10.25	3.45	DMCI Holdings Inc.	7.9	8	7.9	7.9	37,000
6.9	1.06	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4	4	3.8	3.8	29,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	447,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	70,000
14.5	5.7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	65,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.66	1.84	1.66	1.72	718,000
0.8	0.205	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.44	0.38	0.44	220,000
11.5	0.98	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.75	4.75	4.45	4.6	1,660,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc.	7	7	6.8	6.8	176,000
0.215	0.01	Pacifica Inc. A	0.19	0.2	0.17	0.175	1,204,920,000
452.5	215.79	SM Investments Corp.	347.5	347.5	340	340	179,780
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.31	3,930,000
1.6	0.88	South China Resources Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.38	1.44	93,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18	27,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	2,190,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.78	A Brown Company Inc.	1.42	1.44	1.4	1.4	396,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.6	7.3	7.4	103,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	13.75	14	13.75	14	19,467,300
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	1,000,000
4.7	2.46	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	50,000
2	1.2	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp.A	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	122,000
2.1	1.2	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp.B	1.78	1.82	1.78	1.82	53,000
0.86	0.29	Crown Equities Inc.	0.62	0.65	0.62	0.65	1,180,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	150,000
0.99	0.49	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.67	6,730,000
0.47	0.048	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.21	3,380,000
1.48	0.43	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.1	4,328,000
2.44	1.09	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.4	1.4	29,292,000
0.49	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
3.3	2.16	Highlands Prime Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	10,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.59	4,050,000
4.4	1.69	Megaworld Corp.	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.2	12,005,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.8	3.85	80,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
0.87	0.32	Phil. Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.45	1,130,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	271,700
5.9	1.5	SM Development Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.75	2,554,000
13.5	6.24	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	10.75	11	5,239,900
3.25	0.85	Shang Properties Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.5	26,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	200,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.22	0.24	2,650,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.9	250,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	16	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30	30.5	30	30.5	17,700
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.2	9.4	9.2	9.3	337,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	1,718,000
1,445.00	1,025.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,325.00	1,330.00	1,315.00	1,315.00	93,770
2,820.00	1,995.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co	2,685.00	2,685.00	2,665.00	2,670.00	214,180
7.9	4.15	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	215,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.185	0.19	600,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.7	8.7	8.3	8.4	416,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	5,000,000
2.9	1.54	Ionics Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	215,000
0.32	0.043	Island Info and Technology Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.185	0.19	42,520,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.048	47,100,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Grp Int'l Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.8	2,033,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	155,000
6.8	3.15	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	722,000
34.5	15.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	32.5	32.5	32	32.5	169,100
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	10,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	65,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Prod'n Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,230,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.77	0.78	0.77	0.77	7,820,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.8	20,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3.05	453,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
41	6.6	JTH Davies Holdings Inc.	14.75	19.75	14.75	19.75	700
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	4.35	4.35	4.2	4.25	231,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	95,100
30	9.9	Paxys Inc.	14	14.25	14	14	185,500
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.01	94,000,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.1	5.1	5	5	120,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	5.1	5.1	5	5	35,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	13.75	14	13.5	13.75	1,557,500
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. A	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	12,000
5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	3	3	2.95	2.95	50,000
3.1	0.33	GEOGRACE Resources Phil. Inc.	1.64	1.66	1.56	1.6	50,042,000
0.35	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	25,590,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	7,660,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.025	229,800,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	78,600,000
30	1.2	NIHAO Minerals Res. Int'l Inc.	11.25	11.5	10.75	11.25	731,900
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	39,300,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.2	10,445,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	30	30	30	30	5,700
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.96	60,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.14	1,290,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.31	4,650,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	241,600,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	72,700,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.7	46,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	415,700,000

AVERAGES				VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	869.36	UP	1.46	51,117,010	723,178,235.00
Industrial	4,413.18	DOWN	38.20	83,866,400	760,166,690.00
Holding Firms	1,778.32	UP	1.09	1,369,499,750	712,943,370.00
Property	1,444.06	DOWN	9.34	94,917,900	441,067,060.00
Service	1,593.55	DOWN	10.99	111,686,050	745,095,090.00
Mining & Oil	6,004.90	DOWN	57.76	1,273,995,100	214,189,940.00
All Shares Index	2,067.86	DOWN	11.93		
PSEi	3,267.97	DOWN	13.11		
		GRAND TOTALS		2,985,082,210	3,596,640,385.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Lone North Harbor bid in the works

By Riza T. Olchondra

HARBOUR CENTRE PORT TERMINALS Inc. and Metro Pacific Investment Corp. (MPIC) are preparing to submit next month their bid for the 25-year contract to operate the North Harbor.

Harbour Centre CEO Michael Romero said in an interview that the Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) has maintained its injunction against a second round of bidding for the terminal while the joint bidders and PPA submit written arguments.

"We have about a month to respond to each other's written arguments. In the meantime, the bidding process for the first round is proceeding as ordered so we are working on our proposal," Romero said. He did not give more details.

According to the original schedule, the qualified bidder has to submit a proposal by Oct. 17, the same day it is to be opened.

Last week, Harbour Centre and MPIC secured an injunction order from the Manila RTC Branch 21 ordering PPA to proceed with bidding process pending the resolution of their petition for mandamus against the second round. The injunction order also compelled the PPA to release the bid documents to Harbour Centre and MPIC so they can start working on their offer.

PPA said it could still file a motion before the Manila RTC to reconsider allowing the agency to award the contract through a competitive bid. PPA said its thrust was to seek the concessionaire that could offer the lowest tariff rates, which was the reason it wanted more than one bidder.

The PPA board has changed the terms of reference of the process so that the bidding can only proceed when there are at least two bidders. However, PPA added a provision of a negotiated bid as a contingency in case no other firm aside from Harbour Centre qualifies in the second round.

The 25-year concession for North Harbor covers the port's container terminal, general cargo terminal and passenger terminal complex, which will be considered as one operational area.

Terminal 1 will service roll on-roll off container and passenger vessels, terminal 2 will service container and passenger vessel, while terminal 3 will be allotted to conventional, non-containerized, bulk or breakbulk vessels and passenger vessels.

CA upholds lower court ruling on PRCI

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS JUNKED the petition of the Malaysian-led directors of Philippine Racing Club Inc. (PRCI) seeking to stop the proceedings and nullify an adverse ruling of the Makati Regional Trial Court.

PRCI directors Santiagao Cua Sr., former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, Solomon Cua, Santiago Cua Jr. and Exequiel Robles, through a petition for certiorari and prohibition, had earlier asked the CA to invalidate the lower court's temporary restraining order (TRO) stopping them from taking up the controversial purchase of JTH Davies Holding Corp. and the swap of the Sta. Ana racetrack at a PRCI annual stockholders' meeting.

"This court finds no grave abuse of discretion in the issuance of the assailed restraining order," the CA said in its Sept. 6, 2007, decision.

The Makati RTC is conducting hearings on a petition for injunction by a group of minority shareholders who have questioned the Cua group's transactions. The shareholders alleged that they have been deprived by the Cua group of access to documents and information regarding the disputed transactions.

They claimed that a planned swap of the Sta. Ana racetrack title with JTH Davies shares would cause harm to PRCI's primary business.

The Makati court had also issued a subpoena duces tecum ordering the Cua group to produce documents pertaining to the questioned transactions. The Cua group had likewise opposed this subpoena before the CA.

The CA Fifth Division junked the Cua group's petition "for lack of merit, mootness and prematurity."

"Not only did the regional trial court properly exercise its discretion in taking cognizance of the complaint (by the minority shareholders), it is also merely performing its function as a commercial court when it scheduled the hearings on the complainant's application for injunction," the CA said.

The CA decision, in effect, paves the way for the uninterrupted continuation of the proceedings at the regional trial court.

ATI spends ₱180M for port project

ASIAN TERMINALS INC. (ATI) WILL TAKE delivery this month of three Mitsui cranes worth about P180 million to further raise efficiency at the Manila South Harbor and equip it adequately to meet the rising demands of the country's growing economy.

ATI chair Bryan Smith said: "We will keep upgrading our equipment and integrating IT-driven systems to make sure this important trade gateway serves its clients as quickly and efficiently as possible."

The new cranes can lift containers weighing up to 40.6 tons and stack them five high. They are expected to accelerate container consolidation, truck receival and delivery operations as well as maximize yard utilization.

This should result in improved truck turnaround time and higher productivity of vessels calling at the port, and ultimately sustain the growth of ATI's volume-driven business, Smith said.

As of end-August, container volumes at South Harbor reached 508,537 TEUs, which was 11-percent higher than the same period last year.

ATI projects inbound and outbound cargo traffic via the South Harbor to further increase over the long-term as a result of the economy's sustained growth.

Smith said the latest purchase of state-of-the-art container handling equipment was part of ATI's investment commitment to PPA for the South Harbor development.

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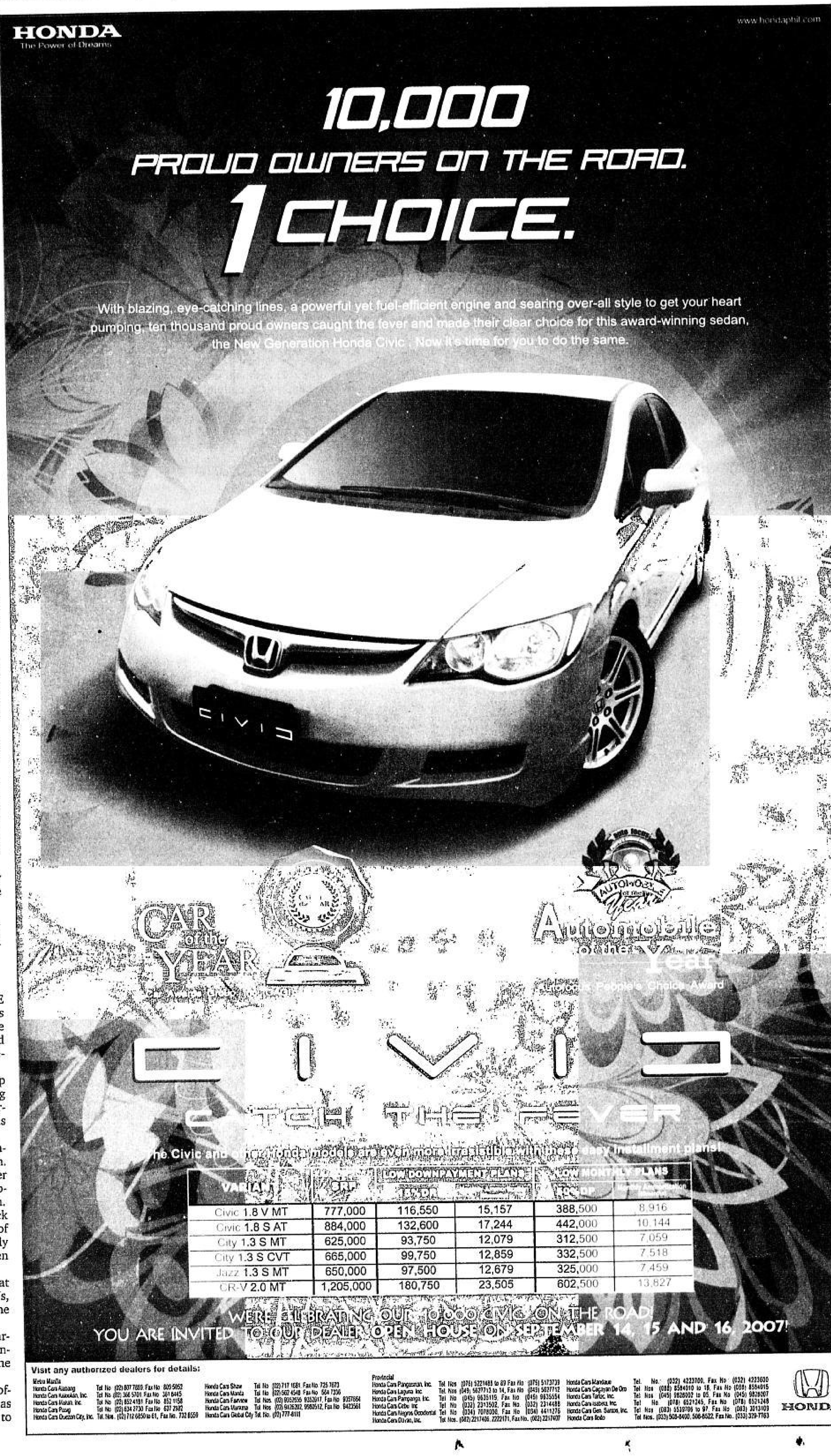
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Civic 1.8 S AT	884,000	132,600	17,244	442,000	10,144
City 1.3 S MT	625,000	93,750	12,079	312,500	7,059
City 1.3 S CVT	665,000	99,750	12,859	332,500	7,518
Jazz 1.3 S MT	650,000	97,500	12,679	325,000	7,459
CR-V 2.0 MT	1,205,000	180,750	23,505	602,500	13,827

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HONDA

FMIC, UK bank tend to IFC float

WB arm set to issue P5B in bonds within the month

By Doris C. Dumlao

FIRST METRO INVESTMENT CORP. AND British bank Standard Chartered will arrange the peso-denominated bond offer of International Finance Corp. worth P5 billion set to be issued this month.

The World Bank's private sector lending arm will be the second triple A-rated supranational issuer to float peso-denominated bonds after the Asian Development Bank, said Robert Juanchito Dispo, executive vice president of FMIC.

FMIC and Standard Chartered also handled the P5-billion ADB peso five-year bond float last May, which carried a fixed rate of 5.23 percent per annum and were priced at a spread of 31 basis points over the tax-adjusted five-year Philippine Treasury bonds.

"It's almost similar to the ADB bond," Dispo said, noting that the IFC bond would also carry a five-year term. "It will be issued within September."

Domestic investors and regulators welcome the rare domestic bond issuances by supranational institutions as these imply a vote of confidence on the country's domestic capital markets.

Also, there is a strong demand for IOUs issued by triple A-rated institutions as indicated by the outcome of the ADB's inaugural float.

The ADB was supposed to issue only P2.5 billion last May. But it ended up doubling its offering size due to strong market appetite.

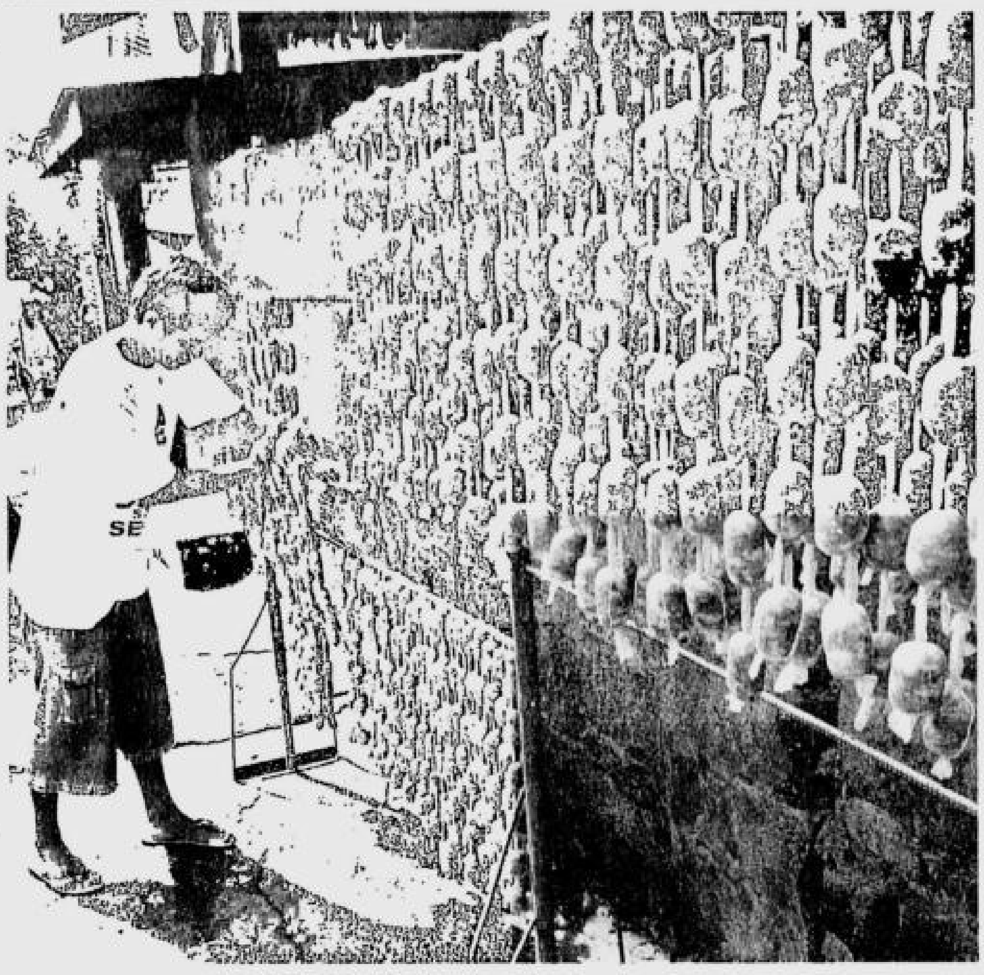
The ADB offering was oversubscribed by 1.4 times.

Since early 2004, the ADB has completed market-opening transactions in the region's local currency bond markets, including India, Malaysia, the People's Republic of China and Thailand.

The proceeds of this issue will be part of ADB's ordinary capital resources and will be used in its nonconcessional operations.

The IFC's plan to issue domestic bonds is expected to contribute to the development of the local capital market.

Liquidity in the local bond market has greatly improved, allowing supranational issuers to price their bonds reasonably, following the government's ongoing bond exchange programs that are supposed to weed out dormant tenors and replace them with more actively traded tenors.



STRUNG AND DRIED

Strings of Vigan *longganisa* (native sausage) have been strung up and dried in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur. The *longganisa*, the city's top product, is being sold for P90 to P100 a dozen.

LEONCIO BALBIN JR./NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

PNOC unit seeking help from private fund groups

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PNOC ALTERNATIVE FUELS Corp., a subsidiary of the Philippine National Oil Co., is seeking the help of private fund groups to bankroll its future jatropha-related projects.

PNOC-AFC president and chief executive Peter Anthony Abaya said the government firm would submit proposals to financial institutions such as Standard Chartered, Citigroup, Barclays Capital, McQuarie Bank and United Coconut Planters Bank.

The Japan Bank for International Cooperation could also be tapped for funding support, he said.

"Our proposals to them should cover funding for plantations and refineries," Abaya said. "We'll also approach private equity groups."

But the PNOC-AFC would continue to rely more on partnerships with private companies, rather than private lenders, to ensure the development and propagation of jatropha-based biodiesel.

"We're seeing potentially seven to 10 foreign partners coming in, some just for plantations and some with refineries," Abaya said. "We hope to sign some agreements within this year."

The Land Bank of the Philippines has made available between P5 billion and P10 billion worth of funds for farmers and farmer groups wanting to establish their own jatropha plantations and even their own refineries and other facilities.

Under the agreement, LandBank would provide loans to qualified farmers or farmer groups wanting to venture into jatropha-related activities, including the establishment of plantations and refineries.

PNOC-AFC, on the other hand, will help identify prospective jatropha growers who can avail themselves of financing from LandBank.

It will also enter into production, technical and marketing agreements with farmers, farm groups, cooperatives, small and medium enterprises, corporations and other qualified entities for jatropha biodiesel-related projects.

PNOC-AFC will also serve as the jatropha growers' seed buyer, to assure them of a steady and sure market for their harvests.

NIA told to account for ₱3.1-B irrigation budget

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY Arthur C. Yap had ordered the National Irrigation Administration to submit a report regarding the P3.1-billion budget for the rehabilitation and restoration of all irrigation systems nationwide.

Yap said that the Department of Agriculture has asked NIA Administrator Marcelino Tugaoen to make a status report which would be submitted immediately to Congress.

Yap issued the statement in reaction to allegations made by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas that the DA had diverted the irrigation funds to unrelated purposes.

He likewise assured the public that the DA is focused on completing the repair of irrigation systems covering 55,000 hectares of rice fields in the country before December this year.

"The KMP has nothing to worry about regarding the irrigation repair because we'll finish the 55,000 hectares before December," Yap said.

The agriculture official also appealed to KMP that it should not be too quick to claim any wrongdoing of the NIA without any measure or proof.

"It's most unfair and discouraging to the thousands in NIA, including the irrigator association partners of the agency who are doing their best to complete the task at hand," he said.

Yap has asked the farmers' group to join the DA in a proactive and positive partnership of identifying and monitoring the extent of repairs or changes that need to be made for the sector.

NIA administrator Tugaoen meanwhile said that, as of August, the agency had restored irrigation to about 28,364 hectares of rice fields out of the 55,000 hectares.

"NIA is ahead of schedule because only 48 percent has yet to be completed as of August 31 from the original target of 57 percent," Tugaoen said.

He added that NIA is willing to undergo any investigation before Congress or any body in the interest of transparency and accountability.

Yap said that it was "pretty surprising" that Rep. Satur Ocampo was quoted by KMP as the one who revealed the suspected fund diversion, adding that, in fact, the gentlemen of Bayan Muna have been fully backing the DA.

"During our budget deliberation last week, Rep. Crispin Beltran, Rep. Ocampo and Rep. Teddy Casiño were happy to hear that there is a return of focus to food security and not rice importation," Yap said.

Yap added that even former Agriculture Secretary Rep. Salvador Escudero III supported the DA's investments in irrigation.

"When he was made the DA chief during Ramos time, the first thing he had inventoried was the status of irrigated lands," Yap said. "[Escudero] was emphatic as well that the national rice program be based of our irrigated lands."

Rep. Junie Cua even lamented that the amount of DA's budget is still lacking, Yap added. *Amy R. Remo*

Agri culprit, victim of climate change

By Amy R. Remo

THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR IS both the culprit behind and victim of climate change—a phenomenon deemed as a major threat to world food security, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

According to Alexander Müller, FAO assistant director general, "agriculture is the sector most affected by changes in climate patterns and will be increasingly vulnerable in the future."

He said in a speech that especially at risk are developing countries, which are "highly dependent on agriculture and have fewer resources and options to combat damage from climate change."

Müller delivered the message to over 140 experts who recently convened in Rome for a workshop on "Adaptation Planning and Strategies."

The workshop was organized by the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, under the Nairobi work program on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

Müller explained that in the short term, as the global average temperature rises 1-3 degree Celcius, industrialized countries may gain in terms of food production.

However, crop potential will most probably decline in lower latitudes even with a minimal rise in global temperature, he said.

This is especially true in subsistence sectors, marginal, semi-arid and sub-humid regions where rainfed agriculture is the norm, he added.

In the Philippines, about 1.4 hectares planted to *palay* are rainfed while some 2.8 hectares planted also to *palay* are irrigated.

There is an estimated 4.8 million farms in the country.

Agriculture, however, is at the same time causing climate change.

It is estimated that the global livestock sector alone accounts for 18 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, while deforestation is responsible for 18 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, said the FAO.

According to the FAO, introducing improved livestock management and crop practices, coupled with adaptive management of forests, could help slow the rate of climate change.

Adopting land use practices such as conservation agriculture would also help maintain significant amounts of carbon in the soil, it added.

Rice production is another major source of greenhouse gas emissions.

"It is perhaps the main source of methane, with some 50 to 100 million metric tons per year emitted from the world's 130 million hectares of rice paddies," a FAO report said.

However, extreme weather conditions brought about by climate change can jeopardize rice crop production, which feeds more than half the world's population.

Using different and improved rice varieties with greater salinity tolerance could help prop up production and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

These varieties were successfully used by FAO to rush the recovery of production in areas damaged by the 2004 Asian tsunami.

FAO added that the rapid transition toward greater use of biofuels could also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, for as long as food security and environmental considerations are taken into account.

"Climate change is emerging as one of the main challenges humankind will have to face for many years to come. It could become a major threat to world food security, as it has a strong impact on food production, access and distribution," Müller said.

Joma Sison unmasked

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

JOSE MARIA SISON ORGAnized the Communist Party of the Philippines along Maoist lines.

Sison believed that, if he controlled the countryside, the cities would fall like overripe fruit, as what happened in China.

Funded by communist groups abroad, Sison organized the New People's Army (NPA) under the command of Dante Buscayno.

Sison also organized communist cells in the cities. He later boasted that the NPA was already spread over 100 guerrilla fronts, and party membership had swelled to 2 million all over the archipelago.

Marcos jailed Sison for rebellion. But, Cory Aquino, in the worst decision of her presidency, released Sison and allowed him to go to Holland where he asked for, and was granted, political asylum.

From Holland, Sison regularly sent his opinions on what was going on in the Philippines. While the NPA struggled in the mountains, and the front organizations mounted protest rallies in city streets, Sison rambled on from the safety of his comparatively luxurious life in Holland.

Even when the Communist world had collapsed around him, Sison bragged that he had the secret formula (without giving any details) for leading the masses to paradise.

Today, except for an occasional raid on an isolated AFP outpost, or an ambush of an Army patrol, the job of the NPA is now restricted to collecting the 10 percent revolutionary tax on everything that moves and grows in the far distant barrios.

The tax is also applied on public school teachers' salaries and sari-sari store sales. If the priest or pastor would allow it, the NPA takes a bite out of church collections.

The NPA has deteriorated into an extortionist gang preying on the poorest of the poor in the far-flung barrios.

But after all these years, the Armed Forces can go to any area that the NPA claims it controls. And none of the cities have fallen. The Maoist/Sison strategy is a complete failure in the Philippines.

The AFP estimates the NPA collects P200 million a year. This is probably an exaggeration. But the real figure still makes the Communist party the richest in the country.

Where does the money go? It surely does not stay in the barrios. There is nothing there to spend it on. The money ends up with front organizations in the cities to fund protest rallies, the media offensive, and finally, the candidacies in the party-list system.

The US and the European Community have tagged the NPA and the Communist party as terrorist organizations. As a result, the flow of money across national borders has been stanched.

The front organizations in the cities have splintered. When the communist party-list representative Satur Ocampo and four of his cohorts holed up in the House of Representatives to avoid arrest, nobody came to storm the place to liberate them. The vaunted mass base had vanished.

The arrest of Sison in Holland on two counts of murder has hardly created a ripple among Filipino communists. There was a pitifully small crowd of hardcore communists in front of the Dutch Embassy in Makati that nobody noticed. The provinces have been silent. To Sison, this silence must be deafening.

Sison has been unmasked as a leader without followers, a chief with no Indians. The local communists have sent him a clear message: You are on your own, comrade.

Sison's biggest problem now is that he is caught in a criminal justice system that no amount of his money can buy.

Exports jumped 4.5% in July to $4.2B

From page B1

percent. For the first seven months, exports reached $28.73 billion, up 6.3 percent from a year ago. However, this was still off the government's exports growth target of 11 percent for the entire year.

"Given the weakness of the US economy, it is difficult to achieve the government's target. What is more realistic is a 6- to 7-percent exports growth for the year," said Victor Abola, economics professor from the University of Asia and the Pacific.

The United States, whose economic slowdown has been projected following the huge defaults in housing loan payments in its subprime market, remained the Philippines' biggest export destination, accounting for 18.3 percent of the total export bill for July.

Earlier, the National Economic and Development Authority said the double-digit exports growth target for the year took into account the expected increase in global demand for consumer electronics.

The Neda had said the projected slowdown in the US economy would not be much of a concern because the United States no longer accounted for bulk of Philippine exports.

"The share of the United States in Philippine exports is already shrinking, but is still significant," Abola said. The economist also said electronics exports would be higher this year, but the growth would only be single-digit.

Abola said the slowdown in the US economy was seen to last until the earlier months of 2008, and so Philippine exports were not likely to rise substantially in the remainder of the year to still achieve the double-digit growth target.

Analysts said the stronger-than-expected peso was also a factor restraining exports growth. The peso has been hovering in the 46-to-a-dollar territory, stronger than the 48 to 50 assumed by the government when it set the economic targets for the year.

But while a double-digit growth may be unlikely, industry players said exports growth could be faster in the last quarter of the year. Global demand grows faster in the last few months of the year due to Christmas spending, they said.

The NSO said the Philippines' biggest export earners in July after electronics were apparel and clothing accessories ($240.97 million), petroleum products ($112.52 million), woodcraft and furniture ($89.7 million), automotive wiring sets ($89.41 million), coconut oil ($69.57 million), metal components ($51.05 million), iron ore ($29 million), and bananas ($26.47 million).

The top exports markets after the United States were Japan ($636.01 million), China ($491.83 million), Hong Kong ($372.47 million), Netherlands ($346.41 million), Singapore ($253.05 million), Malaysia ($230.04 million), Germany ($213.51 million), Taiwan ($151.59 million), and Korea (117.34 million).

5 banks offer to fund gov't buyout of MRT

DOF hopes to secure $865-M loan by yearend

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FInance said that five banks have offered to lend the government the $865 million it needs to buy out line 3 of the Metro Rail Transit (MRT 3).

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the commercial banks' response to the government's financing need had bolstered chances that the buyout deal would be completed on Feb. 27, 2008 as scheduled.

Without disclosing names, Teves said the banks were majority owned by Filipinos but have foreign equity. The DOF is set to review the proposals of each bank and ink a financing deal before the end of the year, he added.

The government decided to buy out MRT-3 from the private sector consortium led by Fil-Estate Corp., saying the move would help it save billions in annual subsidies allocated for its operations.

After buying it out, Teves said, the government intends to resell MRT 3 at terms more beneficial for the government. The government is not usually good in operating businesses, he admitted.

But before working on the search for possible buyers, Teves said, the government was at the moment focusing on raising funds and completing the buyout plan.

Contracting a loan at current market rates is seen to be cheaper for the government than continue subsidizing MRT 3. Economic managers had said that long-term borrowings are currently charged only a single-digit interest rate a year.

Under the build-operate-transfer contract between the government and the MRT 3 owners, the latter are given an assured rate of return on investment of 15 percent a year.

Due to low fare and high operation costs, however, MRT-3 has been losing heavily. Consequently, the government has been shelling out huge subsidies, amounting to P6.5 billion a year, to meet the 15-percent rate of return assured under the BOT contract.

Another finance official commented that the obligation of ensuring a 15-percent rate of return for the investor was burdensome for the government, especially since it is still in the process of reducing the budget deficit.

But the official added that the government could not have found an investor to place money for the vital mass transit project if it would not be guaranteed a decent return.

The DBCC proposes that the MRT 3 be allowed to raise fare to ease the bleeding. Increasing the fare, however, is not easy as this would be a highly unpopular move.

MRT-3 runs the length of Edsa from North Avenue in Quezon City to Taft Avenue in Pasay City.

The maximum fare for an MRT 3 ride is P12, much lower than the P40 an air-conditioned bus conductor charges passengers travelling from North Avenue to Taft Avenue line, the official said.

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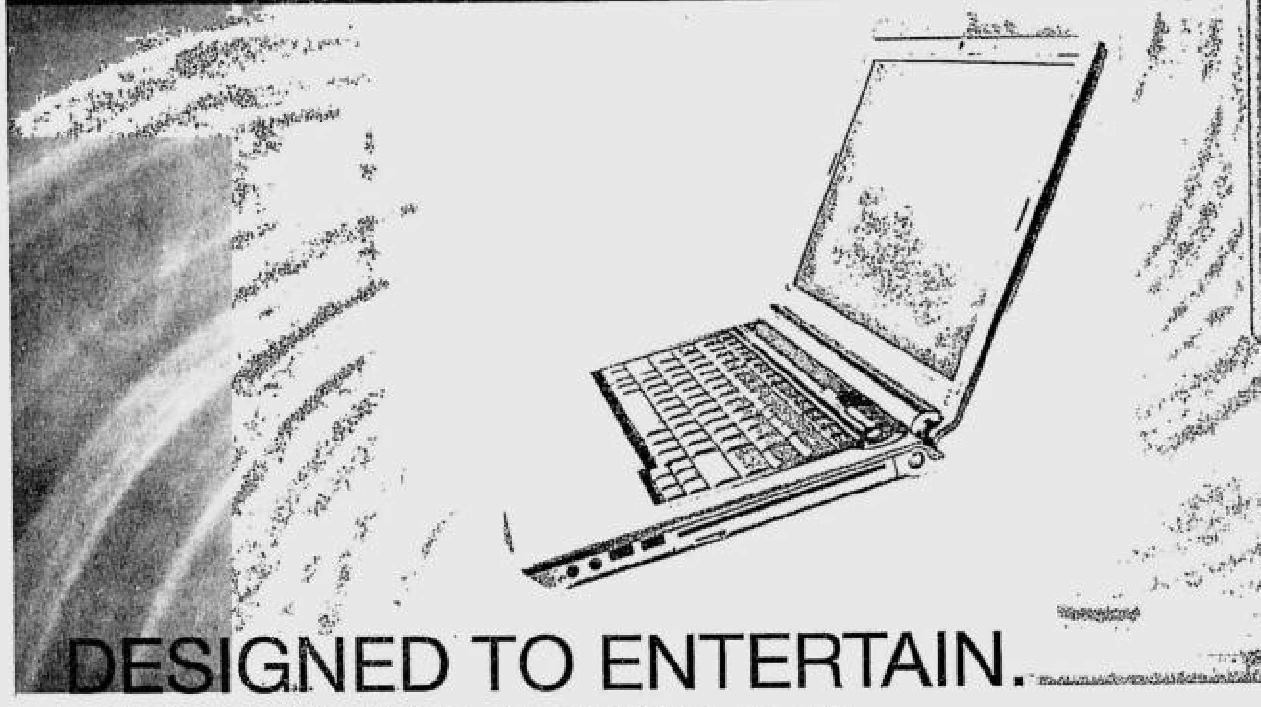

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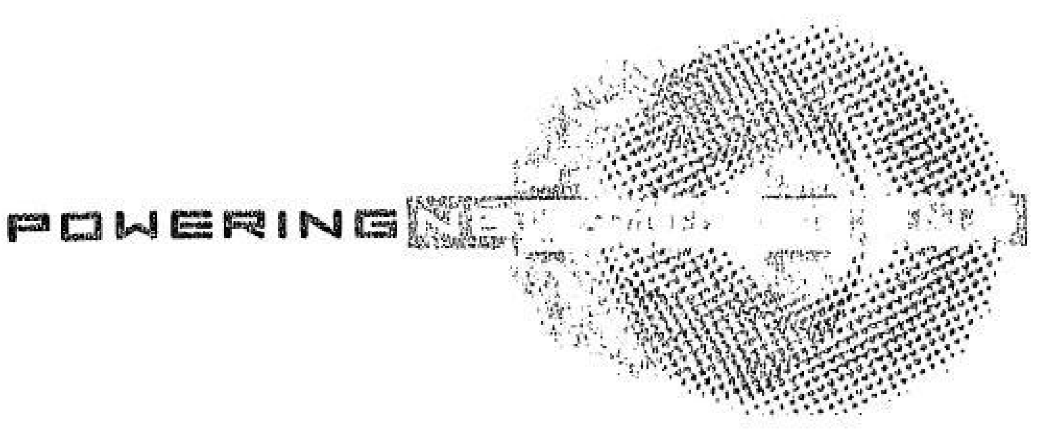
From left: Mr. Noburo Inoue, Sanyo Philippines' vice president; Mr. Tetsuo Hirota, Sanyo Philippines' president; Ms. Veronica Lucas general manager Commercial Business Division; and Mr. Joseph Chua, Sanyo Philippines' general manager

Powering greater ideas, powering better ideas – powering new solutions, these are SANYO's promise and commitment as it continuously commit and recommit its thrusts, goals and vision to serving the people time and again. Through the years SANYO achieved excellence by coming up with quality and cutting-edge products that showcased the superiority of SANYO's technology among its competitors.

SANYO has come a long way from its early bicycle-lamps-and-Japan's-first-pulsator-type-washing-machine days to today's era of powering new solutions. Catering to its thrust to continue protecting the earth in the midst of technological advancement, SANYO pushes for the continued reinforcement of its Think-Gaia-for-life-and-earth principle of technology. SANYO unfolds a new and dynamic array of products blazed with integrated solutions beyond mere technological advancement and providing luxury and comfort to its consumers. Under this principle SANYO has become the leading provider of environment- and energy conserving products by harnessing unique technologies through innovative creativity thus helping preserve our planet for generations to come.



In 36 years, SANYO had not only become the most trusted household brand but also had struck a balance between being earth-friendly and being attuned to technological advancement without necessarily sacrificing one for the other. As it defiantly surges ahead, SANYO Philippines is now ready to enter a new era of market leadership and technological supremacy – offering a wide variety of new solutions for your homes and industries' needs.

As SANYO continues its legacy and traditions, SANYO Philippines now brings its commitment a notch higher as it reaches another landmark in its rich and colorful history from the basic home appliances to applied sciences -- venturing into the very competitive and fast-paced world of commercial industries through an array of biomedical innovations, commercial refrigeration and air-conditioning system. SANYO fuels humanity as they provide cutting-edge home and commercial digital electronics -- bringing you the world in a closer perspective, capturing life in every amazing detail, making your home cleaner and projecting brilliant ideas for every man, woman and child to see and hear.

With this new era of powering solutions, SANYO surpasses competition, as it enters the commercial industry with great promise of superior products that will provide integrated solutions for the country's leading industries and commercial establishments. Thirty-six years of quality products --- rising astute to the challenge and aiming to conquer the topmost spot in the Philippine market and the rest of the world.

SANYO -- committed to a dynamic and changing world by powering new solutions!

Unleashing A Digital Revolution:

SANYO At Its Peak

SANYO's new and cutting edge digital products...LCD monitors, digital projectors, digital cameras and more.

> *"SANYO wants the best for their consumers"*

What people thought as the best, could be better -- SANYO unleashes a digital revolution with its new and cutting edge digital products -- LCD monitors, projectors, digital cameras, washing machines, among others. This foray of digital power caters to giving quality products to consumers beyond what the current trends can give. In its continuing quest to capture an enviable slice of the country's growing appliance and electronics market, SANYO Philippines is now back -- more powerful than ever. The power to view the world at every possible angle through its LCD-TVs; the power to capture life and all its amazing details using its superior line of digital cameras; and the power of creating a cleaner and greener home through its wide selection of refrigerators, air-conditioners and washers.

Since SANYO wants only the best for their consumers, it came up with high quality products that balance luxury and comfort with environment-friendly manufacturing processes through their Think Gaia for Life and the Earth principle.

Some products of note are SANYO's new line of LCD monitors that bring the world closer to home, giving you full access to vivid and full-detailed images. Sanyo's new multi-faceted LCD monitors, now making a big splash in Philippine shores, projects more than just pictures but creates magnificent illusions for every man, woman and child to see.

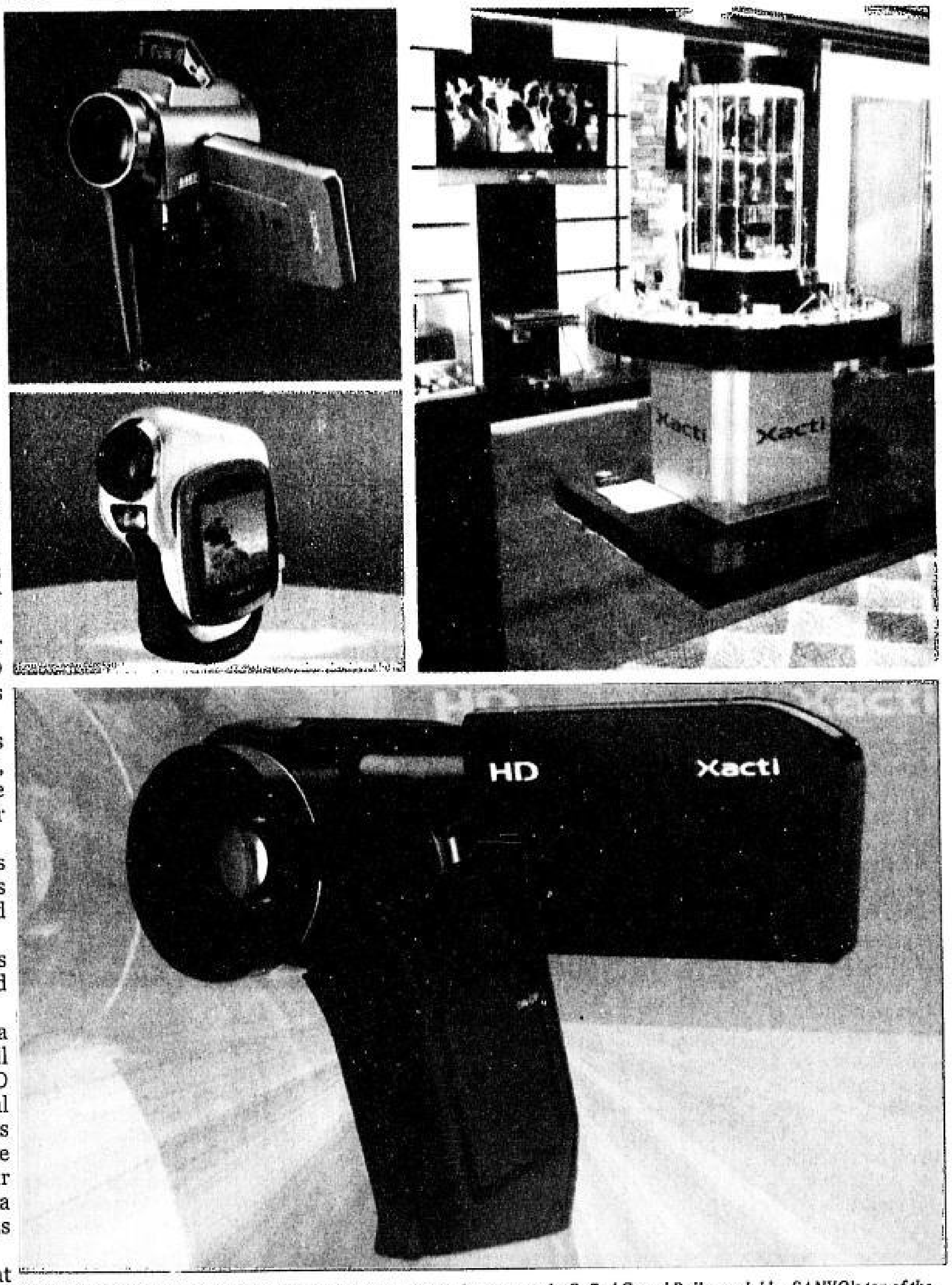
Also, SANYO unveils an array of diverse and intelligent projectors that will continue its stance of being the leading projector manufacturer in the world. Laced with a new optical engine, these projectors can give you the highest and the most reliable long-range projection (compatible with various projection settings) without necessarily sacrificing image quality; they also offer lower power consumption through Sanyo technology's best optical efficiency.

Along with these SANYO also uncovers a new dimension in television picture enhancements that mark a cutting-edge facet in the very competitive television market. SANYO technology has mastered and perfected televisions' on-screen image projection creating vivid and well-detailed pictures for every possible viewing purpose in mind.

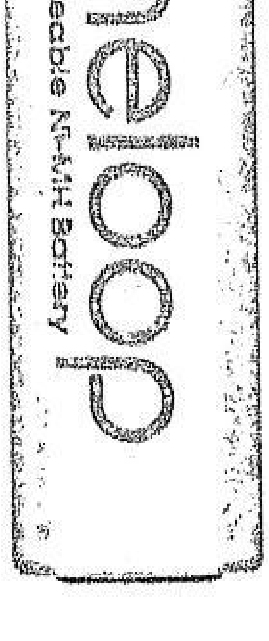
SANYO also has a wide selection of washing machines that delivers clean and spotless washing while ensuring economy and comfort for its users through its additional well-engineered multi-function features and dynamic and stylish body design.

Lastly, SANYO technology presents fundamental changes in your everyday digital camera experience as SANYO introduces its premium line of Xacti high definition digital movie and still cameras with competitive pricing. Picture taking experience will never be the same again as SANYO technology refines digital cameras' countenance with new digital aspects that enhance your usual digital camera features for indoor, outdoor and underwater shots. SANYO's Xacti digital cameras comes with long-range zooming, high speed sequential shooting and anti-shake digital image stabilizer along with compact and light, easy to grip body design that will make taking souvenir shots easy and simple, at the same time ensuring quality image output. SANYO Xacti camera bundles in one amazing product refinement, style, versatility and elegance with multiple functions and use, giving vibrancy and life to your images.

With these enhanced digital products that SANYO offers, SANYO once again proves that the pursuit of perfection is a continuously evolving process. Taking the lead in technological innovations, SANYO shows the world that great products can be made greater.



Clockwise from top left: SANYO's Xacti VPC-HD1A, Xacti showcase at the Sofitel Grand Ballroom lobby, SANYO's top of the line digital camera Xacti VPC-HD1000, Xacti waterproof camera VPC-CA6



A battery for the 21st century

True to its Think GAIA philosophy of creating technology for life and the earth, SANYO brings us great power in a small package... the **eneloop** battery. Initially launched in 2005, **eneloop** is a product that proposes a new lifestyle - one without disposing of batteries. Once charged, it can be used repeatedly, and once used completely, it can be recycled. The **eneloop** battery can be used 1000 times over and produces more power than your usual dry cell battery even under low temperature conditions when it is usually difficult for dry cell batteries to produce power.

The **eneloop** is the world's first rechargeable battery that can be used like a dry cell battery – that is 'immediately after purchase'. Through a breakthrough development, SANYO was able to solve the problem of a rechargeable battery's normal self-discharging behavior when left unused for sometime. Because of this, SANYO has created a rechargeable battery that can challenge dry cell batteries in user-friendliness through features such as making possible immediate use after purchase or once charged, its ability to be used anytime.

Today, **eneloop** has increasingly gained popularity especially amongst professional photographers. The flexibility that the battery allows: superior performance in a range of temperatures, extended hours of usage, and superior power characteristics makes it a natural choice.

A relatively new product in the Philippine market, being launched only last year, **eneloop** is sure to catch fire in this market that's always on the look out for economical devices. It is only a matter of time that Filipinos discover the fact that **eneloop** will surely save them a lot of pesos in the long run.

But, of all its outstanding qualities, one thing undeniably sets this tiny power producing product apart from the rest... the fact that it can be recycled. This greatly reduces the troubles involved in the 'storage and disposal of used dry cell batteries'. Consequently, it makes a remarkable contribution to the reduction of up to 70,000 tons of used dry cell batteries disposed annually in Japan alone.

Moreover, SANYO has created a tube and external packaging that is free from polyvinyl chloride. The outside packaging made with careful regard to the environment uses recycled PET material, thus eliminating any hassles when separating garbage at the time of disposal. Through this environment-friendly design, precious resources such as nickel can be reused, thus contributing to efficient use and saving of resources.

SANYO
eneloop

SANYO Launches Highly Advanced LCD TV in the Market

The TV has become an indispensble part of everyday life especially for Filipinos. Today, we can choose from hundreds of varying TV models exploiting various new technology. Trendiest gadgets today are LCD TVs and Plasma screens. LCD or Liquid Crystal Display technology has been around for quite some time. Evolving from calculator displays, LCD TVs have risen to popularity in recent years. LCD technology evolves and improves year after year in an endless quest for clearer, crisper and more vibrant image delivery.

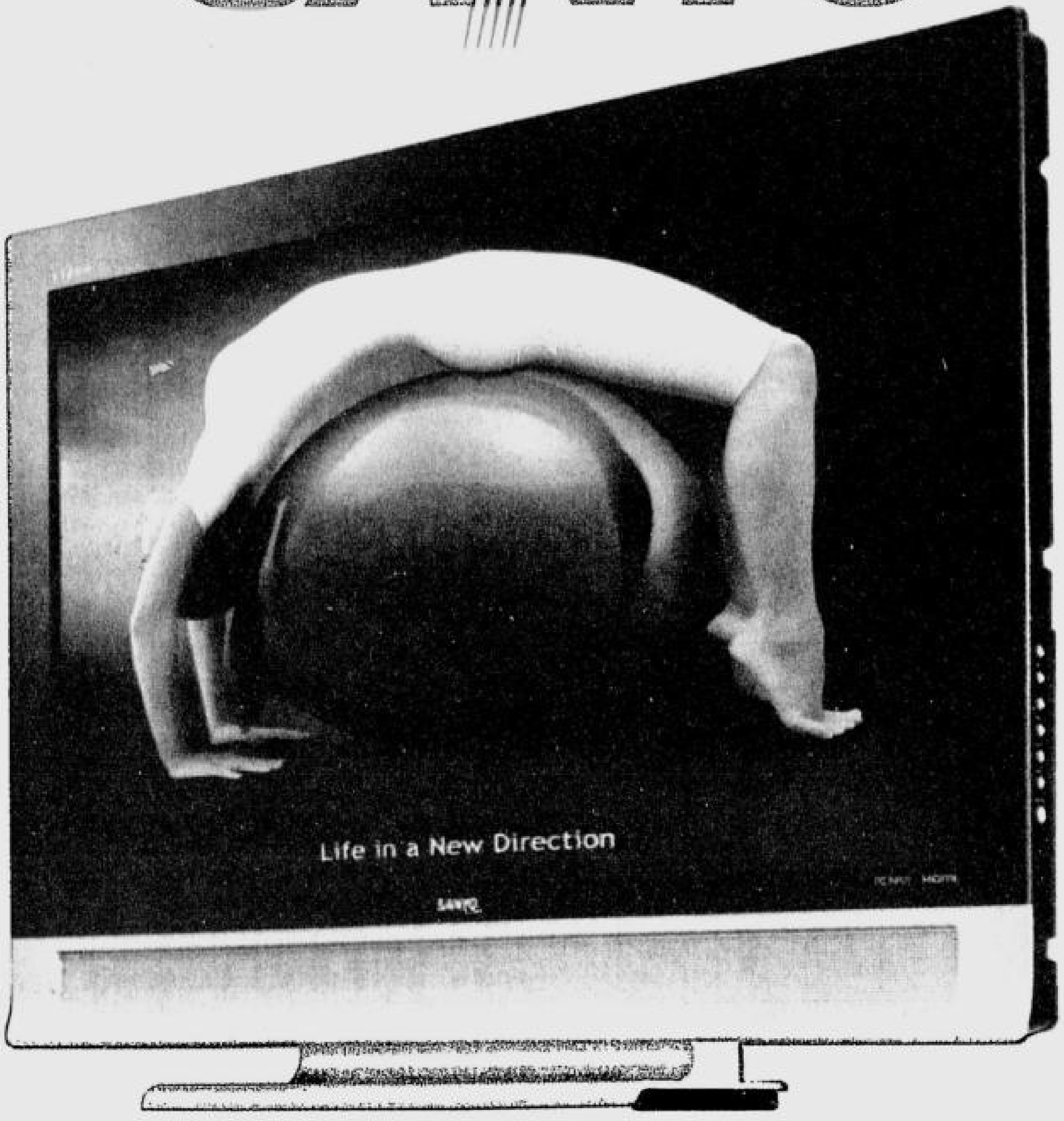
This year, SANYO Philippines unveils its most-advanced LCD TV... the 42" SANYO Vizon LCD 42CA8Z with smaller screen versions measuring 37" and 32". The new SANYOVizon is powered by SANYO's new PPIT or Picture Purifying Intelligent Technology which makes possible the most incredibly perfect picture quality ever achieved.

SANYO's PPIT is supported by a number of features that work together to produce high quality realistic images: CCS (Cross Color Suppression) eliminates cross colour images which lessens image clarity, through temporal averaging of chroma signals. DCDi (Directional Correlational Deinterlacing) reduces jagged lines by adaptive interpolation technology based on diagonal corrections. ACC (Adaptive Contrast and Colour) achieves maximum output luminance dynamic range without causing saturation. ACM (Adaptive Color Management) brightens and deepens blue, green and gray ensuring flesh tone correction. Then there's DNR which is adaptive digital noise reduction and Film Mode which provides incredible movie quality with a cinema format conversion standard.

The new SANYO Vizon is HD-ready capable of displaying high definition signals of 720p, 1080i or 1080p. It is also HDMI equipped that allows the transmission of digital image and sound signals without any loss.

A big plus for the new Vizon is its PC input capability. This LCD TV can be connected to a PC or laptop automatically with comprehensive auto adjust to immediately fix resolution variables. It is also supported by a WXGA wide-screen function that allows the full breadth of your PC or computer image to be displayed on the LCD screen. The SANYO Vizon also allows for a picture-in-picture function that permits TV images to be displayed together with your PC images.

Competitively priced and endowed with a stunning, sleek and edgy design, SANYO Vizon creates viewing pleasure that inspires everyday living.



SANYO Vizon LCD 42CA8Z

The new SANYO Vizon is powered by SANYO's new PPIT or Picture Purifying Intelligent Technology which makes possible the most incredibly perfect picture quality ever achieved.

SANYO Powering New Solutions digital product exhibit of Sanyo LCD TVs

Home Appliances to Applied Sciences:

Commercial and Industrial Innovations

SANYO marches into commercial refrigeration, industrial air conditioning and food / kitchen equipment business.

Just when you thought you'd seen it all, SANYO unleashes a new set of superior products that redefines its commitment to better the lives of their consumers. Innovating from its humble beginnings in the home appliances industry, Sanyo has grown by great leaps and bounds to its new area of expertise... applied sciences products that power integrated solutions so important to maintaining humanity's modern and fast-paced lifestyle.

SUPERMARKET

Bottle coolers and supermarket refrigeration are among SANYO's new line of commercial products

For the first time in the Philippines, SANYO ushers in their quality commercial and industrial products on its 36th year. In Japan, Sanyo has been a leader in this industry for decades. Innovating and attaining remarkable breakthroughs as evidenced by SANYO milestones such as the great Solar Ark in Gifu Prefecture, Japan. The Solar Ark is one of the most impressive solar buildings in the world. The Ark incorporates 5,046 solar panels, and produces about 630 kW of power, which means 530,000 kWh of clean energy is produced annually by the structure. The building was built to symbolize the goal of becoming a "clean energy society" and houses a solar museum inside.

Powered by technological prowess that slowly grew with years of experience and guided by a philosophy to preserve the planet that is home to every human being, SANYO now aims to power and lace fields of commercial air-conditioning, food equipment, commercial refrigeration and bio-medical technology in the Philippines with advanced and cutting-edge products that continuously make SANYO the leader in Japan and all around the world.

From the simple juice extractor and toaster to big commercial chillers and refrigerators, Sanyo provides avant-garde features that will unite comfort and efficiency with earth-friendly technology. Commercial refrigeration technology that is probably one of the best if not the best in the world; commercial air-conditioning systems powerful enough to cool entire malls, hotels. condominiums, industrial complexes and commercial areas; purifying the very air that you breathe by effectively eliminating air-borne viruses with the world's first commercial purification system intended for rooms and spaces that need to be constantly sanitized; bio-medical equipment that aids in the advancement of medical technology achieving extreme freezing points even beyond 80 degress Celsius.

These technological advancements, SANYO now brings into Philippine shores. To power new solutions, to aid the country in its progressive surge forward.

Inspired by this new direction, SANYO Philippines renews its steadfast commitment to be a solid technology partner that continues to propel the country forward into a technological evolution that continuously sustains development.

CONVENIENCE STORE

SANYO commercial products display at Sofitel Grand Ballroom lobby

More Than Just A New Face in the Bio-Medical Industry

SANYO'S entry into the medical field

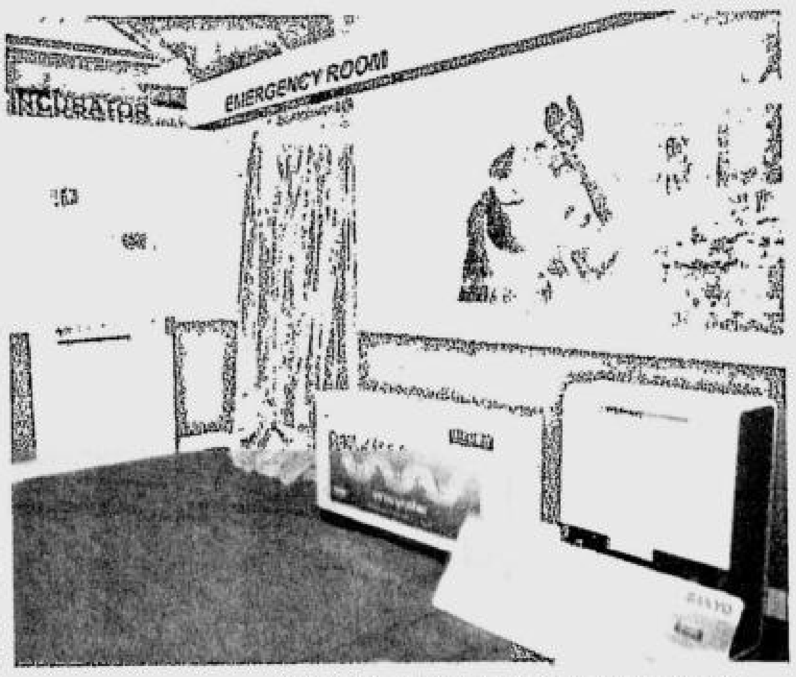
Modernity has its own peaks and pitfalls. Along with the many new trends and breakthroughs that we enjoy in this very dynamic and changing world comes the many medical challenges that people have to face every now and then. At times, ushering in the most advanced and apt technological products could also mean bringing forth certain drawbacks where man's health is concerned.

With this in mind, SANYO broadens its commitment to humanity through their bio-medical innovations attuned with the latest advances in physiology, genetics, virology, pharmacology, and other fields of biotechnology. SANYO's dedication to human health has now reached Philippine soil as SANYO Philippines marks its entry into the bio-medical industry in its 36th year.

SANYO now unleashes a line of high-tech and advanced biomedical products that incorporate the latest applied medical theories and ideas; refrigeration compressors, electronic components, robotic manufacturing and economies-of-scale that directly address health concerns. medical products and equipment are extensively tested to meet the toughest quality standards in the world – SANYO's own.

These products include bio-medical refrigerators designed to meet the temperature stability and secure storage requirements of clinical, life science, pharmaceutical, biotechnology and industrial laboratories; ultra-low biomedical freezers that offer the industry's most efficient combination of SANYO technology's high performance refrigeration systems, storage volume and lab space; and the virus washer -- the world's first air purification system for commercial purposes, that provides people living in the 20th century a safer environment to live in as it eliminates air-borne viruses in large rooms.

With these new array of bio-medical products, SANYO once again proves its continuing vow to constantly generate ideas to provide powerful solutions for a healthy and well-rounded lifestyle.



BIO MEDICAL

Sanyo's Virus Washer, the world's first commercial air purification system (above)
Sanyo Bio-Medical products on display (below)

Asian stocks up as oil eyes record; $ near lows

Market also counting on a rate cut by US Federal Reserve

TOKYO/HONG KONG—ASIAN stocks rose on Tuesday after US crude came within a whisker of its record high, but ongoing concerns about the US economy kept a lid on markets and pinned the dollar near 15-year lows.

Early yesterday afternoon, MSCI's measure of Asia Pacific stocks excluding Japan had risen around 0.9 percent, recovering from Monday's 1.2 percent fall, helped by strength in energy shares.

"At the moment, the market is hanging on to the view that we won't see broad contagion from the credit market issues and the US Federal Reserve will cut rates," said Simon Doyle, head of strategy at Schroder Investment Management in Australia.

"But there is a reasonable probability that things could turn out to be worse and that would drive the market lower."

Stock markets around the region found their footing, with Tokyo's Nikkei average ending the session up 0.7 percent, recuperating from a 2.2-percent tumble on Monday.

Australia's S&P/ASX index climbed 0.7 percent, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index edged up 0.3 percent. Taiwan's main TAIEX share index up around 0.7 percent.

China stocks fell 2.7 percent after data showed annual consumer inflation soared to a 10-year high of 6.5 percent in August, raising concerns about the need for additional monetary tightening, perhaps as soon as next month, analysts said.

"There'll be another interest rate rise this year, and it will happen after the National Day holiday," says Li Mingliang, an analyst with Haitong Securities in Shanghai. The National Day holiday is in the first week of October.

Another data showed China's trade surplus rose to $25 billion in August, less than expected but the second-highest on record, from $24.4 billion in July.

In Japan, data released just before the market open showed core private sector machinery orders, a key gauge of corporate capital spending, rose 17 percent in July from the previous month, beating the consensus forecast for a 5.3-percent rise.

This came a day after a disappointing report showing Japan's economy contracted more than expected in the second quarter.

The data showed capital spending continued to be solid, but alone was not enough to lift uncertainty about the economy, said Masuhisa Kobayashi, chief JGB strategist at Barclays Capital.

Worries about the US economy also saw investors sold exporters such as Honda Motor and Canon Inc. But firmer oil prices supported energy stocks around the region.

US crude traded at $77.69 a barrel, within striking distance of the all-time high of $78.77 set on Aug. 1 as Opec prepared to meet on output policy and after attacks on crude and natural gas pipelines in US supplier Mexico.

Japan's INPEX Holdings jumped 4.9 percent and Australia's oil and gas producer Woodside Petroleum, which said it was in talks with potential Asian buyers for LNG, added 0.5 percent.

MSCI's index of Asia Pacific energy stocks put on 0.8 percent.

The dollar hovered near a 15-year low against a basket of currencies at 79.904, within striking distance of Monday's trough of 79.788—a level last seen on September 1992.

Against the Japanese currency, it bought around 113.80 yen. The dollar has fallen from a high above 124 yen in June amid growing expectations that the Fed will cut its benchmark fed funds rate at the Sept. 18 meeting.

Data last Friday showing an unexpected drop in US non-farm payrolls last month further added to hopes of a bigger cut.

"The market has built a consensus that the jobs data has made it easier for the Fed to cut by 50 basis points, not 25 basis points as generally thought before the figures," said a senior dealer at a European bank.

The euro fetched $1.3790 slightly off an early high above $1.38 and it was also a touch lower at 156.85 yen. *Reuters*

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective consultants to apply for eligibility and short-listing and if found eligible and short-listed, to bid for **the One (1) lot – Supply, delivery, installation, configuration, testing and implementation of a BSP Employee Service System (BESS) per BSP's Request for Proposal.**

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this project requirement is P30 million.

BESS is an employee portal designed to provide a single point of access to information and processes. It is aimed at reducing administrative overheads and freeing human resources and other administrative staff for more strategic activities, improved data integrity, speed-up of HR, administrative and other personnel related transactions. The system will be implemented bank wide and is expected to integrate many of the human resource business processes and provide employees and officials better data visibility/accessibility. The BSP requires a solution that is easy to implement, very accessible, reliable, secure and compliant with e-commerce standards.

The list of minimum eligibility requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective consultants shall be checked using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Short-listing of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria:

1) The prospective consultant has implemented one (1) successfully operating Employee Self-Service system from Y2000 to present. The solution in the nominated reference site must be similar in nature as to the solution proposed for the BSP and the site has been in production for at least one (1) year from date of submittal of the eligibility documents. The following details should be provided:
   a) Name of the organization;
   b) Contract amount and duration;
   c) Role/s undertaken by the bidder at the reference site;
   d) Customer's contact names, address and phone numbers/e-mail address; and
   e) Hardware and software solution implemented
2) The prospective consultant shall submit a certificate of satisfactory performance for completed contract from the client.
3) The prospective consultant shall submit a Statement on Technical Competence and Statement on Owners/Principals/Partners and Key staff, as well as their respective curriculum vitae which includes the following information:
   a) Primary and secondary areas of expertise;
   b) Educational attainment;
   c) IT-related training, and
   d) System projects handled and type of involvement

In case of joint venture, the BSP intends to contract with a single entity. Bidders as the prime contractors shall take full responsibility for all sub-contracted services and must, in their eligibility documents, include sufficient and relevant information on joint venture partners.

The BAC shall draw up the short-list of consultants from those who have submitted Letter of Intents and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provision of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The list of eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat from 12 to 21 Sept. 2007 upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Bid documents will be available only to short-listed bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P15,000.00 to the BSP Cashier and upon signing a Confidentiality Agreement.

The BSP shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Approach procedure through a weighted scoring system that simultaneously considers both the overall technical quality of the solution and the financial bid (60-40). The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI–September 12, 2007)

China's inflation soars

BEIJING—CHINA'S INFLATION hit its highest rate in almost 11 years in August while the nation's trade surplus soared again, official data showed Tuesday, signaling more interest rate hikes ahead.

The data helped trigger a sell-off on China's stock market, with share prices tumbling 4.51 percent in their biggest one-day fall in over three months as investors fretted over expected government moves to slow the economy.

Propelled by soaring food costs, China's consumer price index rose 6.5 percent in August from a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics said.

The inflation rate was well above the official full-year target of 3 percent and the highest since December 1996.

Meanwhile, customs data showed the trade surplus hit $24.97 billion in August, the second-highest on record behind only the $26.91 billion in June, adding more fuel to trade tensions with the United States and Europe.

Economists said the government would act quickly following the August data despite already raising interest rates four times this year as part of a package of measures aimed at slowing the nation's runaway economy.

"We expect the central bank to respond to higher inflationary pressures with decisive tightening measures, including two interest rate hikes (by the end of the year)," Goldman Sachs economist Hong Liang said.

Economists said they expected other measures as well, including a rise in the amount of money banks must keep in reserve, which is aimed at slowing lending and reducing the amount of cash in the economy.

China has already hiked the bank reserve ratio seven times this year.

China's economy has so far shrugged off such cooling measures, growing 11.9 percent in the second quarter of 2007 and 11.5 percent in the first half.

Wang Tao, a Beijing-based economist with Bank of America, said the economy was expected to continue sizzling at those rates in the third quarter, and forecast full-year growth of 11.5 percent. *AFP*

Apple sells 1M iPhones

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA—Apple Inc. sold its millionth iPhone over the weekend, days after it slashed the price by a third to spur sales.

The milestone was reached weeks earlier than expected and sent shares of Apple up $4.94, or 3.8 percent, to $136.71. The stock regained some of the ground it lost after the price cut spooked investors as a sign of weak demand and slimmer margins.

It took just 74 days for the combination cell phone-iPod to hit the 1 million mark, which Apple had said it would achieve by the end of September.

By comparison, it took two years for the company to sell 1 million iPods, Apple CEO Steve Jobs noted in a statement.

Last week, Apple knocked $200 (145 euros) off the price of the 8-gigabyte iPhone, bringing its price to $399 (289 euros), and discontinued the 4-gigabyte version. Apple spokesperson Natalie Kerris declined to comment on whether the price cut helped spur sales.

The price cut may have helped a bit, but Apple clearly was on track already to exceed its own expectations, analysts say.

The swift price cut—not surprising in the cell phone industry but rare behavior for Apple—angered hundreds of early buyers who bought the touch-screen gadget for top dollar. In response to all the negative reaction, Jobs issued an apology the next day and offered customers $100 (72.50-euro) credits.

Apple had said it was lowering the iPhone price to attract more customers, in time for the holiday season.

The move, which many analysts had predicted—but not quite so quickly—adds pressure to Apple's rivals, but it also was possibly part of a broader strategy for its product lineup.

On the same day Apple slashed the iPhone price to $399, it unveiled a new iPod, also for $399.

The iPod Touch is basically the same as the iPhone but without cell phone capability.

Apple cut the price of the hybrid iPod-cell phone to prevent an onslaught of consumers from abandoning it in favor of the Touch, Tim Bajarin, analyst with Creative Strategies, speculated. *AP*

TransCo Issues its 2007 Transmission Development Plan (TDP) Discussion Draft for Public Consultation

The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), the government corporation responsible for the operation, maintenance and centralized planning of the nationwide transmission system, has issued the 2007 TDP Discussion Draft for public consultation.

The Discussion Draft outlines the ongoing and future network development for 2007-2016. The capital expenditures (capex) indicated in the plan are consistent with the capex program approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission for the Second Regulatory Period (2006-2010).

TransCo is now inviting comments on the Discussion Draft. Comments may be e-mailed to tsd@transco.ph up to October 12, 2007. The Discussion Draft as well as the schedule of roadshow presentations can be downloaded from www.transco.ph

National Transmission Corporation

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

(RE-BIDDING)

Republic of the Philippines

Name of Project : **TECHNICAL EDUCATION & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**
Brief Description of GOODS : **Various Training and Testing Equipment (NDFTES-03)**
Loan Number : **NDF Credit - 331**

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a credit from Nordic Development Fund (NDF) towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP) being carried out by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It intends to apply this credit for payments under the contract for **Seven (7) Bid Lots for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Various Training and Testing Equipment to identified TESDP Beneficiary Institutions.**
2. The **Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders **for Training & Testing Packages for Various Occupational Sectors, with an Aggregate Project Cost of Approximately Two Million Three Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Eight and 50/100 U.S. Dollars (US Dollars 2,332,998.50).** Delivery of the GOODS to the TESDP institutional sites shall be seventy five (75) calendar days from date of contract signing. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", to the extent consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures as defined in *"Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans"*, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from The Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee of TESDA Central Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00 am – 5:00pm, Monday – Friday) starting **September 12, 2007.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents (in hard and soft copies) may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of P 10,000.00 or its equivalent in US Dollars. The method of payment will be in cash or check payable to TESDA, said payment to be acknowledged through an official government receipt (O.R.). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **10:00 A.M., September 18, 2007.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, cashier or certified check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount equivalent to 1% of the total bid price and Bank Guarantee in the amount equivalent to 1.5% of the bid price payable to TESDA or an equivalent amount in freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bid opening shall be held on **September 18, 2007 at 2:00 P.M.**, at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who chose to attend.
8. TESDA will be employing a single-stage, three-envelope system of bidding, with Envelope No. 1 containing the Bidder's Eligibility requirements, Envelope No. 2 the Technical requirements and Envelope No. 3, the Bid Price. The Eligibility requirements and the Bidding Forms will be specified in the ITB and the Bidding Documents.
9. TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
TEODORO S. SANICO
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee
TESDA Complex, TESDA Administration Building
East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Tel. No.: **817-40-76 to 80 and 888-5798**
Fax No.: **817-90-40**
E-mail : **psd_ocsa@tesda.gov.ph**
Website: **www.tesda.gov.ph**

(Sgd.) **TEODORO S. SANICO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–September 12, 2007)

In loving Memory of our beloved

Haydee Bofill Yorac

March 4, 1941 + September 12, 2007

A remembrance mass will be offered at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani at 4:30pm Wednesday, September 12, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig and at the following churches:

St. Francis Xavier Parish, *Wilmette, Illinois*	6:30am
Immaculate Conception Church, *Chicago, Illinois*	6:30am
Holy Name Cathedral, *Chicago, Illinois*	7:00am
St. Thomas Church, *Ann Arbor, Michigan*	7:00am
St. Nicholas Church, *Evanston, Illinois*	7:45am
St. Patrick Church, *Lake Forest, Illinois*	8:00am
St. John Bosco Parish, *Chicago, Illinois*	8:00am
St. Joseph Church, *Wilmette, Illinois*	8:30am
St. Lukes Church, *Stockton, California*	8:30am
Saints Faith, Hope and Charity Parish, *Winnetka, Illinois*	8:45am
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, *UP Diliman, Q.C.*	12:00nn
Sto. Niño de Paz Chapel, *Greenbelt, Makati*	12:15pm
St. Thomas More Chapel, *Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut*	5:30pm
Parish of Our Father, *Del Nacia Ville, Tandang Sora, Quezon City*	6:30pm

Family members request relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

In Loving Memory

On the Sixth Death Anniversary of

Ma. Teresa (Bobbi) Espino Blankenhorn

June 8, 1951 – September 13, 2001

Her husband **Ron**; daughter **Rhoni**; parents **Gen.** (†) and **Mrs. Romeo C. Espino**; brothers and sisters **Leslie** and **Diana**, **Ralph** and **Cristina**, **Ricardo** and **Maribelle**, **Helene** and **Tito**; nieces **Monica** and husband **Michael**, **Adelaide**, **Nikki** and husband **Giancarlo**; nephews **Richard** and wife **Racy**, **Paolo** and **Julian** request relatives, friends and the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for her on, September 13, 2007 at:

St. Denis Parish, Menlo Park, California	8:00 a.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, Magallanes Village, Makati	6:00 p.m.
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Poblacion, Makati	6:30 p.m.
St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa	6:30 p.m.

We give him back to God
just as He first gave him to us...

JOSELITO ABRANTES MORALEDA

has gone Home to the Father on September 8, 2007
at the age of 72.

His bereaved wife, **Baby**, and his children and grandchildren: **Gerry & Rina (Nicole & Max)**, **Eleanor Grace**, **Francis**, **Faye & Uly (Sophie)**, **Lianne**, and **PJ**; his brothers and sisters: **Dr. Imelda**, **Msgr. Ham**, **Dr. Desi** (†) **& Brenda**, **Dr. Fides**, **Fr. Ben**, **Nitz & Edna (Liza & Mark)**, **Mo. Lourdes, OP**, **Dr. Tito** and other cousins and relatives, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Joselito's mortal remains lie in state at the Mortuary Chapel of the St. Gregory the Great Cathedral, Legazpi City.

Interment is scheduled for Saturday, September 15, 2007 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tahao Road, Legazpi City.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) at Putik, this city per requisite under Board Policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards, invites ALL interested Bidders/Suppliers to bid for the supply of the following electrical materials/equipment/items, to wit:

No	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	4	UNITS	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER, 37.5KVA (BRAND NEW) pri: 7620/13200 V. WYE, SEC: 120/240V SINGLE PHASE PHILEC, WAGNER, LG OR ABB BRAND (BRAND NEW), DOUBLE BUSHING PRIMARY AGENCY PRICE: P95,000.00
2	5	UNITS	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER, 75KVA (BRAND NEW) pri: 7620/13200 V. WYE, SEC: 120/240V SINGLE PHASE PHILEC, WAGNER, LG OR ABB BRAND (BRAND NEW), DOUBLE BUSHING PRIMARY AGENCY PRICE: P148,000.00
3	2	UNITS	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER, 167KVA (BRAND NEW) pri: 7620/13200 V. WYE, SEC: 120/240V SINGLE PHASE PHILEC, WAGNER, LG OR ABB BRAND (BRAND NEW), DOUBLE BUSHING PRIMARY AGENCY PRICE: P 254,000.00

NOTE: SUBJECT FOR SITE INSPECTION OF THE MANUFACTURING PLANT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE SUPPLIER PRIOR TO THE DELIVERY OF THE UNIT TO ZAMCELCO COMPOUND AT PUTIK

You may secure the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Finance Department, ZAMCELCO Complex in Putik, this city anytime during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 pm of September 13, 2007 and no documents appertaining thereto, shall be accepted thereafter, UPON PAYMENT OF A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE OF FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00).

All applicants will be duly notified as to the results of the pre-qualification eligibility process. Only those who are pre-qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding. A post-qualification may be conducted accordingly hereafter.

Bidding will be conducted on September 20, 2007.

Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the Office of the Finance Department at the above-mentioned address on or before 2:00 p.m. of September 20, 2007. Five percent (5%) Bidder's Bond is required as a matter of policy.

The right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the coop is hereby reserved as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCELCO.

(Sgd.) REINERIO R. RAMOS
General Manager

(PDI--Sept. 12 & 13, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) invites all interested bidders for the disposal of LTO unserviceable properties (motor vehicles, office equipment) and waste/scrap materials on an AS IS WHERE IS BASIS.

Bid form and other requirements may be secured from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM from the Chairman, Disposal Committee at the address below upon submission of a letter of intent not later than September 20, 2007.

Submission of bids shall be on October 2, 2007 at 2:00 PM. Bid shall be opened thereafter at the General Services Section, Ground Floor, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Letter of intent and bid tender should be properly addressed as specified below:

The Chairman
LTO Disposal Committee
General Services Section
LTO Compound, East Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City

All bid tenders must be accompanied by a bid bond in the form of cash equivalent to not lower than ten (10) percent of the total bid offer.

The LTO reserves the right to reject any or all bid, to waive any required formality in the bids received or to accept such offer that the LTO may consider the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ROBERTO S. SE
Chairman
LTO Disposal Committee

(PDI–Sept. 12, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
CEBU PORT AUTHORITY
CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Boulevard, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City
E-mail cpa@cpa.mozcom.com
Telephone 232-1461 to 63; 231-6856 to 57
Fax No. 231-6848

AN INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Cebu Port Authority, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City, invites accredited and duly registered contractors to participate in the public bidding of the following project:

NAME OF PROJECT : *CONSTRUCTION OF RORO RAMP WITH CONCRETE PLATFORM AND PROVISION OF COVERED CATWALK WITH CONTROL STEEL GATE @ PORT OF TANGIL, DUMANJUG, CEBU*

A. Scope of Work
- a) Supply and Deliver of 0.35 x 0.55 R.C. Sheet Piles (0.35 x 0.55 x 14.0 L.M.) = 30 pcs. : 616 L.M.
- b) Supply and Deliver of 0.40 x 0.40 x 18.0m Anchor Piles (L = 54 L.M.) 4,000psi @ 28 days
- c) Driving of Piles (Sheet Piles and Anchor Piles)
- d) Chipping of Pile Butts for Anchorage
- e) Forms and Rebars for Coping Beams, Tie Beams, Mooring Foundation (3,250 kgs.)
- f) Concreting of Coping Beams, Tie Beams; Curing and Stripping of Forms (V = 25.0 cu.m.) (4,000psi @ 28 days)
- g) Concreting of Reinforced Concrete Slab and Concrete Curb (3,500psi @ 28 days) V = 34.0 cu.m. and Curing
- h) Supply and Install Fabricated Steel Fenders = 7 pcs. (Fabrication, Sand blastings and paintings)

B. Classification Small B for Ports

C. Equipment Requirements

1 unit	Bar Cutter	- Owned
2 units	One Bagger Concrete Mixer	- Owned
2 units	Concrete Vibrator	- Owned
2 units	Engine-driven Welding Machine	- Owned
2 units	Cutting Outfit	- Owned
1 unit	35T Crane	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	35T Truck Mounted Crane	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Diesel Hammer (K = 35/eq.)	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Drop Hammer (2T cap.)	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Air Compressor (185 cfm) w/ 2 jackhammers	- Owned
2 units	Portable Concrete Cutter	- Owned
1 unit	Walk Behind Vibro Roller	- Owned
1 unit	Electric Bending Machine	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Boom Truck	- Owned
1 unit	Sandblasting Machine	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Cut-off Machine	- Owned

D. **Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)** : P7,099,235.54

Source of Funding : **CPA Corporate Fund**

Cost of Prequalification or Eligibility Statement : **P500.00**

Issuance of Prequalification or Eligibility Statement : **September 12-19, 2007**

Deadline for Submission of duly accomplished Prequalification or Eligibility Statement : **September 24, 2007**

Prospective bidders shall submit to the BAC Chairman of this office their duly accomplished Prequalification or Eligibility Statements in **HARD/BOOK-BOUND** form. Prequalification or Eligiblity Statements submitted other than **Hard/Book-Bound** form shall not be accepted.

Bid securities in the form of surety bond, Callable on Demand, can be secured from the GSIS or other private insurance & surety companies duly accredited by the office of the Insurance Commission.

Prospective bidders shall submit the necessary documents or evidence to prove ownership of equipment and the duly notarized lease contract indicating the brand, serial number, capacity, and present location of equipment being leased.

Prospective bidders are required to present the original copy of Contractor's License/ Certificate of Renewal and IAC Classification and Registration for verification/ authentication before Pre-qualification or Eligiblity Statement shall be issued.

All particulars relative to prequalification, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184, and other rules and regulations as may be applicable.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/defect therein, and to accept such bid as may be deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **MARIO G. TAN**
BAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ANGELO C. VERDAN**
General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 12, 2007)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JANCSI ALLEN CHUATOCO
August 28, 2007

FERNANDO LOPEZ
August 27, 2007

ROMEO TAMBALO
August 27, 2007

Above persons namely **JANCSI ALLEN CHUATOCO, FERNANDO LOPEZ** and **ROMEO TAMBALO** are no longer connected with Cavite Packaging Corporation effective on dates specified above. Any transaction entered into by any of them for and on behalf shall NOT be honored by **CAVITE PACKAGING CORPORATION.**

(PDI-Sept. 12, 2007)

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More Spanish firms eye presence in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MORE SPANISH FIRMS ARE CONSIDering plans to set up operations in the country due to the strong economic growth rates in the past two quarters, according to the Spanish Chamber of Commerce or La Camara.

La Camara president Jose Luis Romero-Salas said in a briefing yesterday that there are strong signs that Spanish companies have renewed their interest in the country.

"Spanish firms are now looking beyond the politics in the country," Romero-Salas said. "They are seeing the Philippine economy stabilizing and posting real growth."

La Camara has 106 member companies, which are engaged in businesses like insurance, cosmetics, textiles and wine distribution.

Asked whether issues like former President Estrada's plunder case were a concern among Spanish businessmen, he said these have no impact on their business decisions. "We are focused on opportunities," he said.

He cited the 7.5-percent growth posted in the second quarter, which was a 20-year high for the country and which was topped only by Singapore and China in the region.

Romero-Salas said that within such an economic setting, the Instituto de Promocion Exterior de Castilla La Mancha (Ipex) was bringing in through a trade show five companies that were looking at establishing businesses in the country.

The five firms that would be introduced through the 4th Spanish Products and Services Expo or expoEspaña—to be held Sept. 28-30—were shoe manufacturer Calzados Mister and wine producers Bodegas Latue-Cooperativa San Isidro, Bodegas Navarro Lopez, Jesus del Perdon-Bodegas Yuntero and Sandevid.

Romero-Salas said Spain was looking to turn around its trade relations with the Philippines that have lagged behind most of the country's leading trade partners.

He said the Philippines enjoyed a trade surplus in 2006, exporting to Spain $219 million worth of goods and importing $128 million.

"Wine remains the biggest export of Spain to the Philippines and we do not see that changing over the next few years," he said. "Spain is also looking at cementing its presence in the fashion industry."

Romero-Salas said future opportunities for partnerships between Spanish and local firms abound in food products, biofuels and infrastructure.

Vehicle sales up 15.8% as of August

VEHICLE SALES AS OF AUGUST went up 15.8 percent, with companies saying that a 10-year-high growth this year is becoming more certain.

Elizabeth H. Lee, president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (Campi), said in a joint report with the Truck Manufacturers Association that they sold a total of 73,565 units as of end-August from 63,545 last year.

Lee said the industry expected sales to average at 8,600 units a month for the rest of the year.

"Once (that is) achieved, the industry would have the highest sales in the past 10 years by surpassing the 100,000 mark," she added.

Lee said Campi and TMA expected to continue their overall growth in the coming months considering the current "stable economic environment."

"The continuous efforts of the government against smuggling would also help support sales from the formal auto sector," she said.

"Although the industry experiencing its highest growth in the past 10 years, the local auto sector still has a long way to go compared to its Southeast Asian neighbors," Lee said.

Sales of commercial vehicles grew 23.2 percent in the eight-month period while that of passenger cars grew 4.1 percent, according to Campi and TMA data.

The CV segment, which includes the subcategories of Asian utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles, light trucks, and trucks and buses, accounted for 65 percent of aggregate sales.

All four subcategories showed improvements with sales of AUVs going up 26.8 percent to 20,159 units and of light commercial vehicles—consisting of pickups, vans, compact sports utility vehicles—by 20.1 percent to 25,830 units.

The assemblers also sold 1,308 units of light trucks or 26.3 percent higher, while buyers took 598 units of trucks and buses or 35.6 percent better than last year.

On the other hand, turnover of passenger cars increased to 25,670 units although sales declined by 5.6 percent between August and July.

In terms of total sales, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. kept the lead with 36.8 percent of the market, followed by Honda Cars Philippines Inc. and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp.

Ronnel W. Domingo

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•Financial derivatives

Saturday, October 20
Module 2
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•Use of derivatives in risk management

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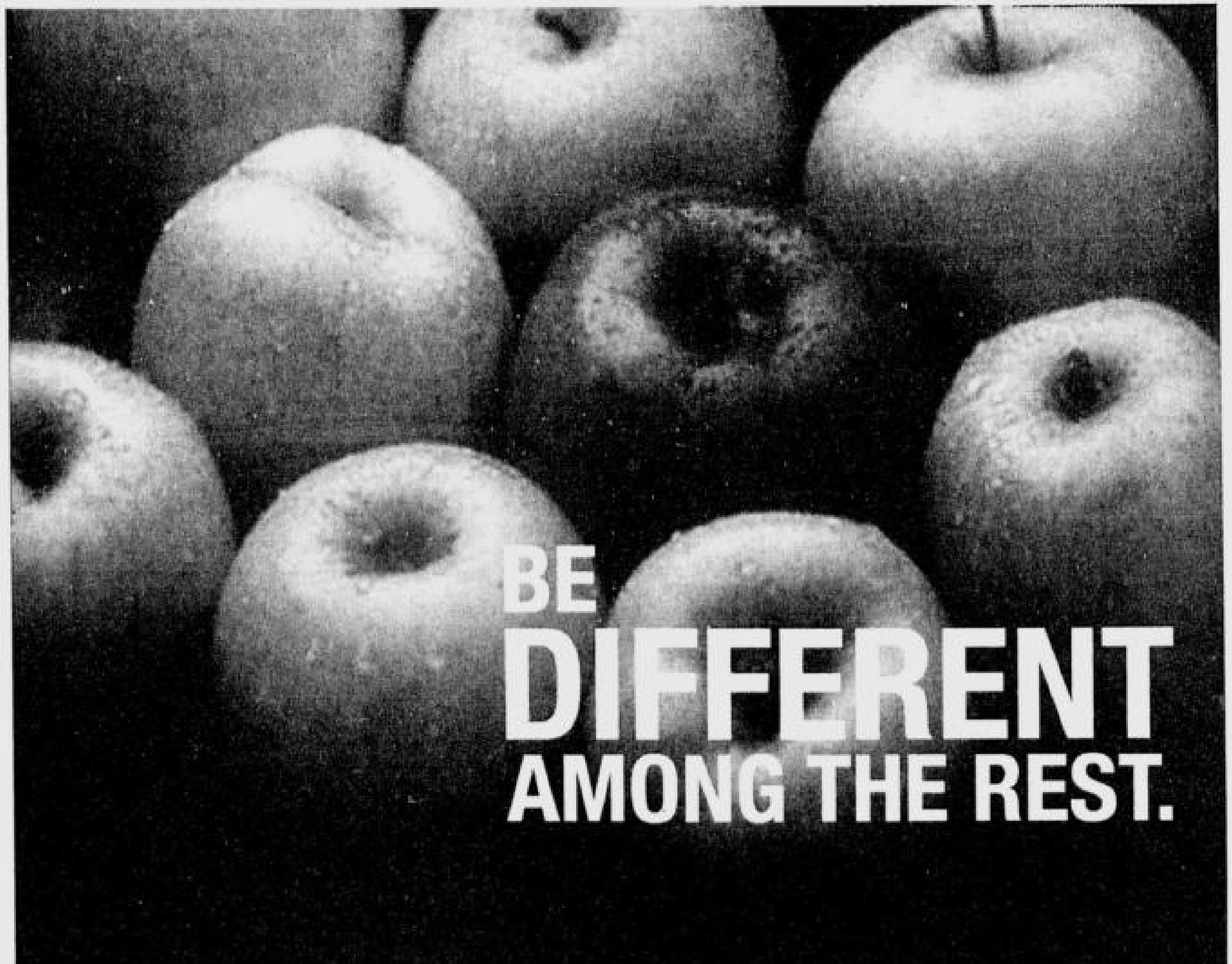

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Who's your mechanic?

By Tessa R. Salazar

PATRICK DAYAG, 20 YEARS old, sells apples, grapes, oranges, lanzones and rambutan at Divisoria from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays to Sundays. That's his day job.

But from 7 p.m. to 12 midnight Mondays to Saturdays, he would be holding wrenches, screw drivers, pliers or special tools designed to service specific engines or components such as shock absorber/coil spring removal tool.

That's right. Patrick has two identities—fruit vendor by day and student auto mechanic by night. And we can't tell which undertaking is more heroic.

The Toyota dealership in Cubao has taken in Patrick for an on-the-job training stint. There, his schedule was altered a bit: mechanic from Mondays to Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (excluding over time) and fruit vendor on Sundays.

It was in Guzman College of Science and Technology in Quiapo, Manila when INQUIRER Motoring chanced upon Patrick tinkering on a Toyota EFI engine simulator and found out about his double identity. But why all the trouble for two jobs, we ask? Patrick answers earnestly, this was all for his four other siblings.

There's more of Patrick's kind. He is just one of Toyota Foundation's thousand or so scholars. He first passed the screening at the Guzman College. Another screening, exam and final interview was also conducted by Toyota Motors Philippines Foundation.

Guzman is one of the 14 partner schools of Toyota Motors Philippines Foundation's scholarship program. These partner schools, in a way, have become a "buffer" for car dealers in the country to make sure the "brain drain" among mechanics would not likely happen.

On the lookout

Since 1990, the Foundation has been on the lookout for poor but deserving student auto mechanics. Loida Escueta, project assistant, describes what values they are searching for among scholars: "*Matalino, masipag, maaasahan, di mayabang* (intelligent, industrious, reliable and selfless)."

And every year, for 17 years, Toyota Foundation has been training 85 such scholars to fill the Toyota dealer network that has increased to 26 workshops nationwide. Demand is increasing because the workshops continue to grow yearly.

'Perfect match'

The world's No. 1 carmaker "rummages" around its school partners all around the country to find the "perfect human match" to its engines.

About P4 million are spent for scholars every year, and another P1.25 million a year to donate about five EFI engine simulators to five partner schools (P250,000 per simulator). The carmaker plans to donate a common-rail direct-injection engine simulator to partner schools by 2008.

"The common-rail (engine) is more advanced, but the progression is logical. If you're very good at EFI, it would be easy to get into the CRDi," says Vitaliano Bobbit Mamawal, VP for customer service operations.

CRDi is the new generation diesel engine for improved power and fuel efficiency. It is equivalent to gasoline engine EFI system.

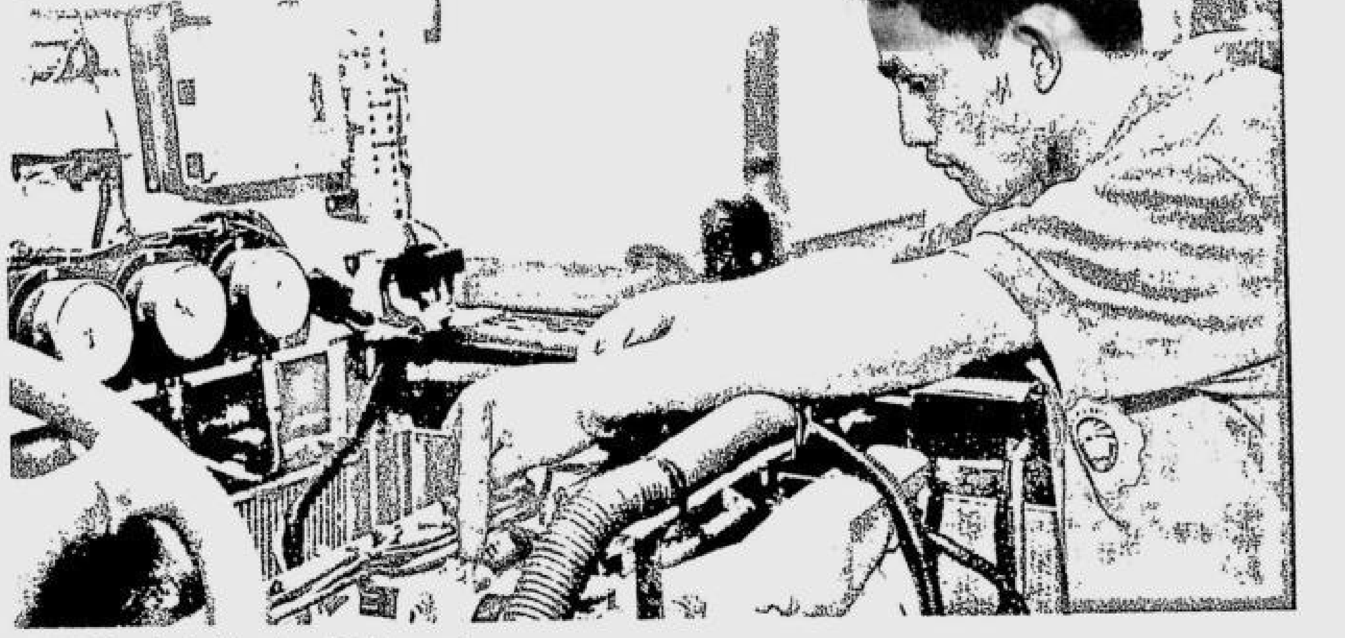
What scholars get

Aside from the tuition, the Foundation pays for the scholars' book allowances, which average at P2,500 and a monthly stipend of P1,500 for an NCR-based scholar and P1,400 for a Luzon-based scholar. A scholar based in Visayas or Mindanao gets a P1,300 monthly stipend.

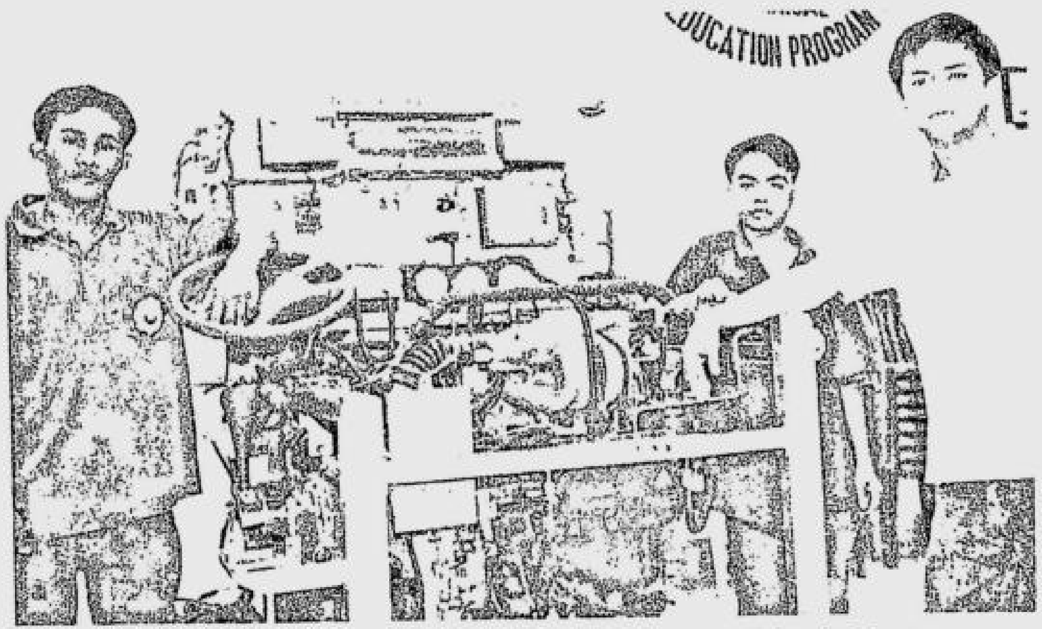
A technician-scholar may also get the chance to be sent to Toyota's Japan headquarters for further two-year studies.

A scholar is also tasked to undergo OJT

WHO'S/ B2-2



PATRICK, who is tinkering with Guzman's EFI simulator, might also be trained to use 'intelligent tester' computer system to quickly diagnose problems.



TO 'REPLENISH' technicians continually being pirated for overseas jobs, the Toyota Foundation screens and recruits students like Patrick, Sonny and Ernie. PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

> To avert the 'brain drain' of auto mechanics, world's No. 1 automaker 'rummages' around auto schools to 'tune up' promising talents

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Andre Palma

HUMAN BEINGS HAVE THIS FASCINATION with trying to predict the future. If you really think about it, when you lump together all the professions that deal with trying to prepare people for what's going to happen tomorrow, figuring a billion-dollar industry is easy. Weathermen, stock analysts, turbaned swamis and TV evangelists preaching apocalypse are just some of the people making big bucks in the global futures industry.

It's strange that people think motoring hacks can predict the future too. If I had a peso every time someone asked me what new car is going to break cover and when, I wouldn't have to amortize car purchases anymore. The idea of walking into a dealership with a dump truck's load of one peso coins may sound ludicrous, but hey, cash is cash.

Seriously though, when consumers ask me what new cars are going to come out I have to use words like "probably" or "likely" too. While those who write about the automotive industry do have an idea of what is on the launch horizon, often details are sketchy at best. Often specifications only become public knowledge during the media launches. Price points follow much later in some cases.

What's on this grapevine?

When motoring hacks meet outside the world of work, it's funny that we have to gossip about new product launches. Having to get information from one's colleagues is essential in trying to keep updated in this industry. While this grapevine is critical, often hard intel you can act on is difficult to come by. Separating the hearsay, the paid PR and the liquor-fueled talk is where the skill lies.

I hate to admit this, but most motoring journalists become aware of launching products through means that are readily available to the public. Sift through the tons of junk on the Internet. Read reviews from other markets. Keep tabs on the regional releases. Temper all this loose information with a little cynicism and you've got the basics of Automotive Crystal Ball 101 down pat. In the same way you look for risqué celebrity pictures online, you have to be able to tell the real deal from a Photoshop job. If it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

Lack of information

It is funny that we have to do all this research at all. Not knowing when cars are coming out is silly. In larger automotive markets, launch dates and product information are available to the public months a year in advance. In the Philippines, how many consumers have become victims because of the lack of information? I for one am on that list. Back in 1998, in the middle of swapping a B16A into my local market EK, the SiR came out. Can you imagine staring at a gutted Civic, knowing what you wanted to build can be bought brand-new from the showroom?

The reasons behind the tight lips are obvious. Market size is the main culprit. As small as our automotive industry is, the smallest hiccups can often be disastrous. Imagine the dip in sales if consumers had hard information that on such day, a newer version of what they are planning on purchasing would come out. The stockyards of Sta. Rosa would be overflowing with unsold, previous model cars that would have to be disposed of in a fire sale. That would be great for consumers but be potentially catastrophic for any vehicle manufacturer.

Case in point is the chance meeting I had with an industry big shot late last week at a family event. After the usual gripes about my absence from his brand's events, said Sta. Rosa executive made me promise to go to the next one in November. Having been placed in a spot I wanted to return the favor and asked, "So what's launching in November?" He just smiled that signature 1,000-kW grin and took a drag from his cigarette, thinking he got the last laugh on me. Two can play that game. If I were in the market for a new vehicle I'd wait until November before I bought from his brand. So should you.

TRANSPORT TRIVIA

By Emman Cena

So, who drives what? The car of the rich and the famous

· Steve Jobs

Ever wonder what car does Steve Jobs drive along the Silicon Valley? According to Valleywag.com, neighbors of the Apple tycoon spotted him driving a silver Mercedes CL500 early this year. So what made Jobs, also the founder of Pixar Animated Studios, settle for the CL500?

The model was launched by Mercedes late in 2000 proclaiming it their most sophisticated car ever. This has an impressive combination of power, comfort, handling and style, says Cartalk.com. It belongs to the generation of the CL-Class, or C216, which is currently available in other models: CL600, CL63 AMG and CL65 AMG.

· Larry Page

Google founder and listed as one of the world's billionaires, 34-year-old Larry Page reportedly drives a Toyota Prius, one among his undoubtedly long list of gas-guzzling collection of sports car, according to valleywag.com.

Page is currently the president of Products of Google Inc. with a net worth estimated at US$16.6 billion. Forbes listed him the 26th richest (living) person in the world together with Sergey Brin.

· Peter Thiel

The co-founder and former CEO of PayPal was once spotted driving his McLaren sports car. The 40-year old prominent financier was probably lured by this fascinating sports car, considered one of the top-of-the line Mercedes Benz models ever released.

References: http://valleywag.com/tech/trivia/cars-of-the-rich-and-famous-263307.php, www.apple.com, www.Cartalk.com

BMW Group cited for best performance both in fuel economy, carbon emissions reduction

THE BMW GROUP ANNOUNCED that a compelling new Environmental Defense report shows that the manufacturer's automobiles have improved average fuel economy by 14 percent and dramatically reduced CO_2 emission rate by 12.3 percent—more than any other major automaker. The next best reduction of any other automaker was 3 percent.

The report praises the BMW Group's achievement and notes that BMW did not sacrifice sales growth while improving its fleet's fuel economy and carbon emission rates. In fact, during the study's period of analysis (1990-2005), the BMW Group enjoyed a more than fourfold increase in US sales.

In its report, "Automakers' Corporate Carbon Burdens," Environmental Defense, a leading national nonprofit environmental protection organization comprised of more than 500,000 members, studied the impact of 12 major automakers' product strategies on fuel efficiency and the overall level of automotive carbon emissions.

The report found that the BMW Group not only lead the automotive industry in both fuel economy of its vehicles and the reduction of carbon emissions, but that the BMW Group was one of only two automakers in the study that reduced its per-vehicle CO_2 emission rates.

Commitment to environment

The report's findings underscore the BMW Group's commitment to the environment, sustainability and EfficientDynamics. With BMW EfficientDynamics, the BMW Group strives to enhance fuel economy with every new product while still offering the customer the best in class performance. To do so, the BMW Group works tirelessly to develop and use innovative technology to reduce fuel consumption and CO_2 emissions while simultaneously enhancing a vehicle's dynamic performance.

According to Tom Baloga, vice president of Engineering for BMW of North America, "Independent confirmation of BMW's leading position to reduce emissions and conserve fuel—while delivering exciting performance—corroborates BMW's strategy to optimize its vehicles through technology and continue the ultimate driving experience."

Ongoing quest

As indicated in the report, the BMW Group improved fuel economy on a number of its key models, including the BMW 3 Series, 5 Series, 7 Series, M coupé, M sedan and X5 SAV. Additionally, the BMW Group's Mini Cooper accounted for almost half of BMW's overall fuel economy improvements.

Since the conclusion of the Environmental Defense's research for this report, the BMW Group has announced a number of additional advancements, initiatives and milestones in its ongoing quest for sustainability, including the introduction of the BMW Hydrogen 7—the first hydrogen powered-luxury sedan.

The BMW Hydrogen 7 is not a concept car. It is a production model vehicle that has successfully completed the entire BMW product development process. Running in hydrogen mode, the BMW Hydrogen 7 has extremely low emissions and emits primarily water vapor, representing another major step in reducing CO_2 emissions.

Who's your mechanic?

From page B2-1

(on-the-job training). Within three years a good auto mechanic scholar could move up from being a basic technician to a master Toyota technician.

Mamawal said that although some trained scholars still get pirated abroad, more young people are being drawn to the call of the engine, just like Patrick who told the INQUIRER in Pilipino: "I really love to tinker with engines. The demand for mechanics does not diminish as we see more vehicles on the road."

Screening of scholars

To show how serious the screening of these scholars are, Thelma Raymundo, officer in charge of TMP Foundation's education sector, said that aside from the usual final interviews from the preselected campus scholars, Toyota Motors Philippines Foundation conducts home visits that would sometimes take them inside narrow alleys in towns and cities.

Ernie Casta, 22, another Foundation scholar, is a contractual employee of Toyota Otis. Ernie was a Malabon teener intently observing another auto mechanic working on a car when he decided to study and become one himself. He told INQUIRER Motoring that his father, at the time, was a plant supervisor of scaffoldings.

Casta once competed in the Tesda auto skill Olympics youth category and won in the Manila district. Casta now helps support his parents and five siblings who live in Pangasinan.

Sonny Gutierrez, a contractual employee at Toyota Quezon Avenue, used to work as a service crew in a Malate restaurant while studying at Guzman as a Toyota scholar. His interest and background in cars was nothing new. He used to work for his uncle's auto shop with no salary. Selfless, indeed.

Reacquaintance with a BMW Seven

From page B2-4

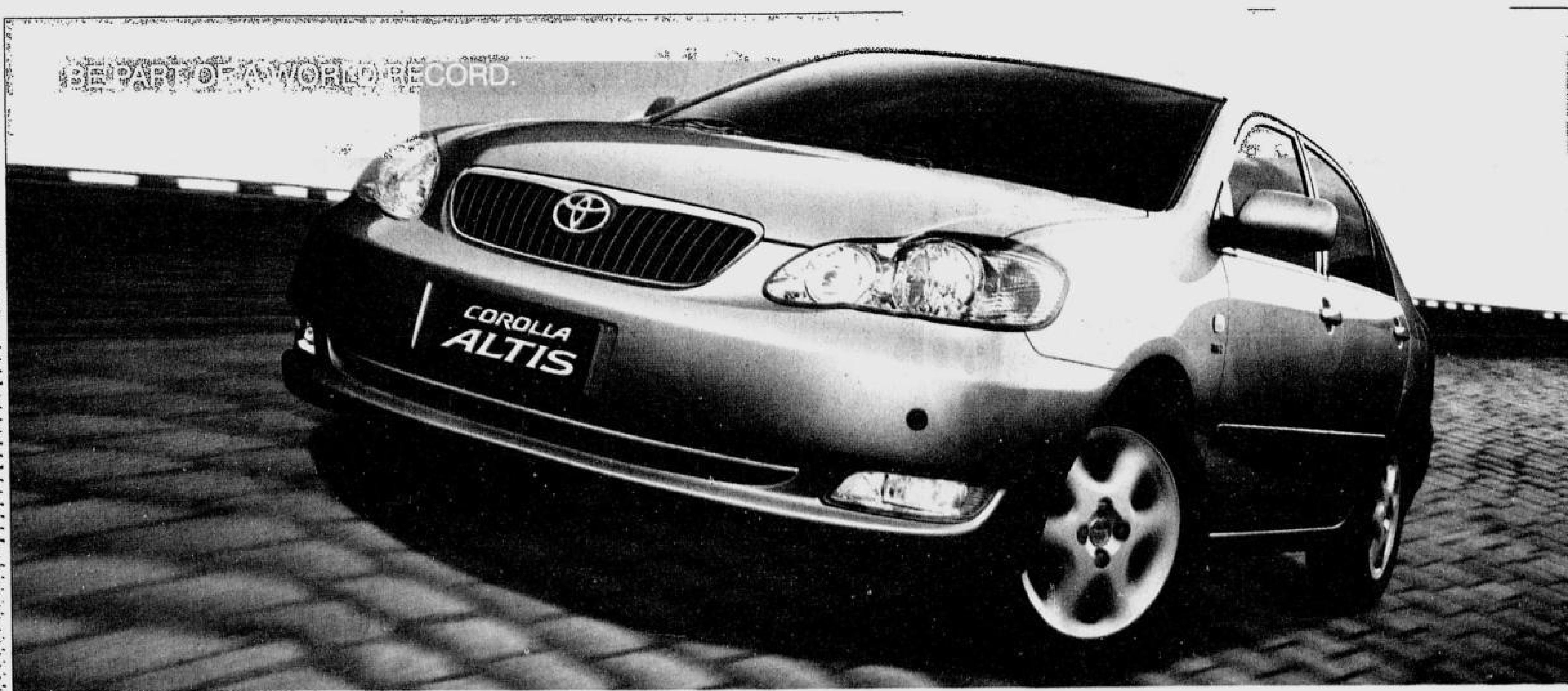
hanced by the reassurance that the Seven is packed with the latest safety features. Aside from eight airbags, disc brakes on all four 17-inch light alloy wheels and Xenon headlights as standard equipment, the 730Li has Dynamic Stability Control which includes ABS antilock brake system, ASC Automatic Stability Control, CBC Cornering Brake Control and DBC Dynamic Brake Control—all together ensuring superior driving stability and traction.

The iDrive

But before driving a Seven, you need an orientation course because of the complicated and confusing iDrive control system. I remember that at the world premiere of the 7 Series in Italy, BMW staff from Germany had a hard time explaining to motoring journalists from all over the world how to use the eight-menu iDrive Controller intuitively. BMW is still revising the iDrive system to make it easier to use. Good luck!

Meanwhile, the leather-clad interior of the 730Li remains as plush, roomy and comfy as ever with walnut trim replacing the dark wood of previous models. The long wheelbase allows rear-seat occupants, even tall ones, to stretch their legs in comfort. The 7 Series, after all, is supposed to be chauffeur-driven while you relax in the back. But since driving the nimble, powerful 730Li is such a pleasurable experience, you are forgiven if you occasionally take over the wheel.

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Atheism is a nonprophet organization.



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An inventor's wait for vindication

By Charles E. Buban

> Rabe: 'I'm not losing hope. I believe my invention, which took me two years to perfect, should be given a chance'

HIS INVENTION MAY BE considered too good to be true and even not worth trying for the damage it might cause to the vehicle over time.

However, Marianito Rabe is imploring not to dismiss his Rabemar Fuel Booster too quickly.

"I know the market is already swamped with so many gas saving products. Unfortunately so many of those who bought them were not satisfied. As a result, new products that could show promise are already disregarded quickly," lamented the 60-year-old long-time member of the Filipino Inventors Society.

So how does Rabemar Fuel Booster works?

Installed on the fuel line

Rabe explained that his 6.35-cm long cylindrical (made of stainless steel and bronze fittings) device is installed on the fuel line, right before the injectors. While both ends of the device reconnects the fuel line, one end has two more connectors for the hot water to come in and out.

"As the hot water goes in and out of the device, it heats up the gasoline that passes through and effectively boosting the gasoline's combustion efficiency even before reaching the fuel injectors," he said.

"But the most important is that the device is less likely to damage the engine as it does not affect the air/fuel ratio, has no connection to the intake manifold and since it has no moving parts, it does not require cleaning or parts replacement," he assured of his device that sells at P5,000 a piece (although Rabe is still looking for marketers, he could be reached at 0920-6369980).

Rabe reminded that his invention could be installed in most car models as long as they are gasoline engine equipped with fuel injection (will not work on motorcycles).

Convince car owners

"Since I cannot afford the P8,500 assessment fee that the Industrial Technology Development Institute of the Department of Science and Technology requires me to pay in order to verify my device, I decided to just convince some car owners and through them find out if my invention works or not," he related.

Rabe said by just basing from the weekly gasoline expenses of these car owners, he was able to get weekly fuel expenses savings that range from 15 percent to even 20 percent (especially those who frequently drive on the highways).

"I would be more happy if a more scientific testing is done (as well as the needed financial support to make the test possible)," he said lamenting on the lack of support he got from the authorities.

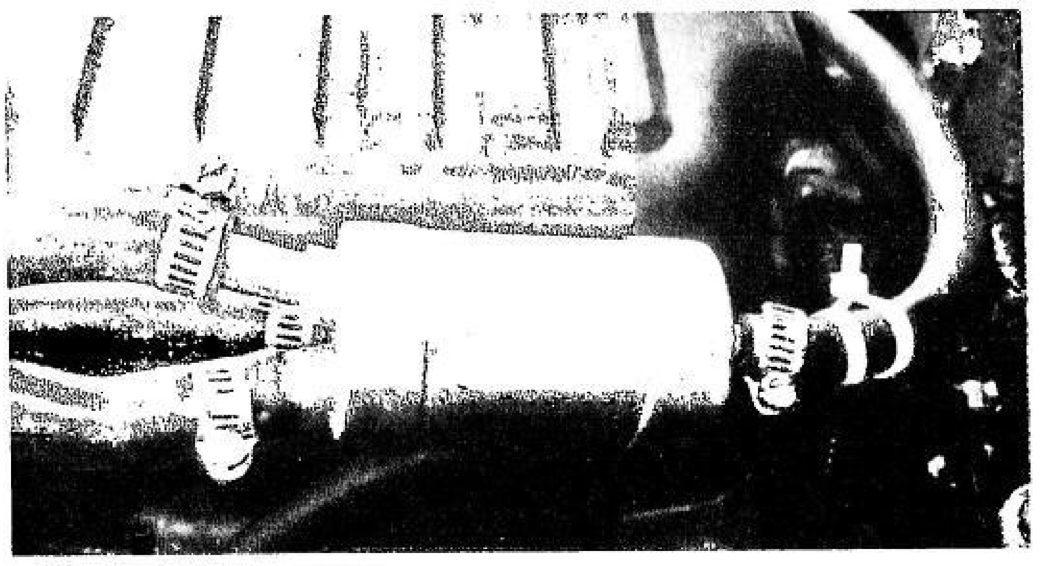
Credibility problems

Rabe added that because several gas saving products have already been proven ineffective or were just a hoax, newly introduced products such as his Rabemar Fuel Booster are already suffering from credibility problems.

"I even offered one government official to try my device for free but declined. I'm not losing hope. I believe my invention, which took me two years to perfect, should be given a chance," he said.

Although the native of Sta. Cruz, Marinduque has no formal training as a scientist or an engineer, Rabe said he has always been interested in mechanics.

"Just like me, a lot of inventors have no formal training along the line of their invention. However, this should not stop us from achieving our goals. The public as well as the authorities should not just dismiss us so easily. Otherwise, it would be very sad if one day somebody from abroad would contact one of us and give us all the necessary support and exposure that we haven't enjoyed here," he said.



RABEMAR'S device installed in a Honda Civic

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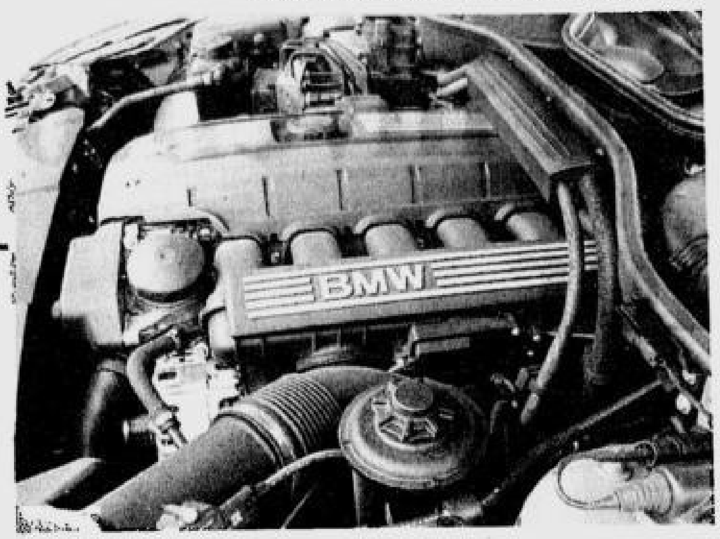
BMW 730Li: grand touring in a sporty style



THE BMW 730Li's 258 hp straight-six engine

Reacquaintance with a BMW Seven

SIX YEARS IS A LONG ENOUGH INTERVAL for getting reacquainted with one of the world's finest large luxury cars. I first drove a BMW Seven in October 2001 at Fiuggi, Italy where the Munich-based car manufacturer held the world premiere of the eight-cylinder 735i and 745i, the fourth generation of the 7 Series code-named the E65.

When it was launched on the market as the 2002 model, the E65 turned off many BMW fans because of its starkly angular appearance and radically designed tail, so much so that there were calls for styling chief Chris Bangle's resignation. Consequently, in the spring of 2005, the 735i and 745i were replaced by the 740i and 750i for the 2006 model year with new power units and a subtly de-Bangled rear. What had looked like startled eyebrows over the headlamps were removed. The complicated iDrive control system was also revised to simplify the menu and provide more direct access to certain functions.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

Aside from the V8 750Li and the 12-cylinder 760Li, BMW Philippines Corp. offers the common rail diesel 730Ld and the P7,600,000-priced 730Li. It was with the latter that I got acquainted with one weekend last month.

Grand touring

The initials "Li" stand for long wheelbase and since the 7 Series cars are essentially grand touring saloons, it makes sense for BMW Philippines to offer only the long wheelbase versions. Notwithstanding its entry-level (to the 7 Series) ranking, the 730Li can brag about its light-footed agility and upgraded engine power.

The 730Li is ultra lightweight as its new 3.0 liter inline-6 gasoline engine has a composite magnesium/aluminum crankcase. Weighing 161 kilos, it is the lightest six-cylinder in the world in its performance segment. Moreover, the 730Li, like its brethren in the 7 Series sector, has an all-aluminum chassis and suspension. All these translate into a 12 percent increase in engine output for the 730Li while simultaneously achieving greater fuel efficiency. Fuel consumption averages EU 10.6 liters per 100 km in combined city and highway driving, reflecting a 4.7 percent improvement over the previous 730i.

With a fully variable Valvetronic valve drive first introduced in the BMW 630i and a six-speed automatic transmission with Steptronic, the 730Li is capable of 258 bhp/6,600 rpm and max torque of 300 Nm/2,500-4,000 rpm. It accelerates from zero to 100 kilometers per hour in 7.9 seconds and has a top speed of 244 kph, according to BMW Philippines.

Smooth Six

No matter at what speed you drive the 730Li, the running is infinitely smooth. Credit this to BMW's 71-year track record in the construction of straight-six power units. BMW has always preferred the inline-6 over the V6 configuration because it delivers the optimum refinement expected of a luxury badge like the Bimmer.

No description of a BMW Seven would be complete without something about the supreme riding comfort if offers. Not only does the standard aluminum suspension with wider track, anti-dive and anti-squat (at the rear) guarantee steering precision, agility and balanced behavior, it also provides superior ride quality worthy of a grand touring saloon which the 730Li is. Once you board a Seven, you will be tempted to motor straightaway to Baguio or to farther destinations because driving/riding this car is such a smooth, quiet and comfortable experience.

The driving pleasure is further en-

REACQUIANTANCE/ B2-2

THE BMW 730Li's complex cockpit

PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA MENDOZA

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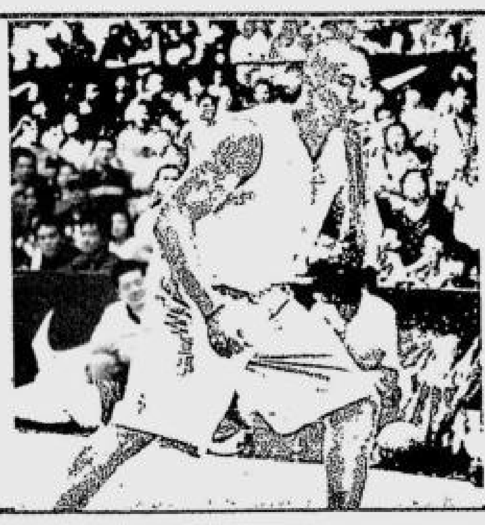
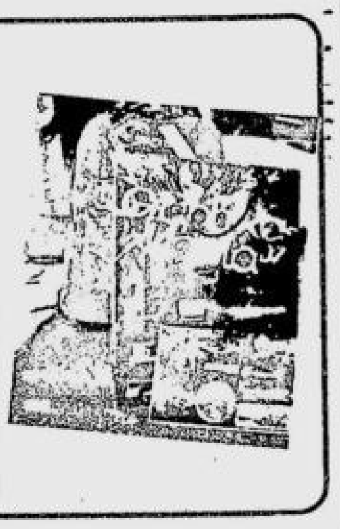
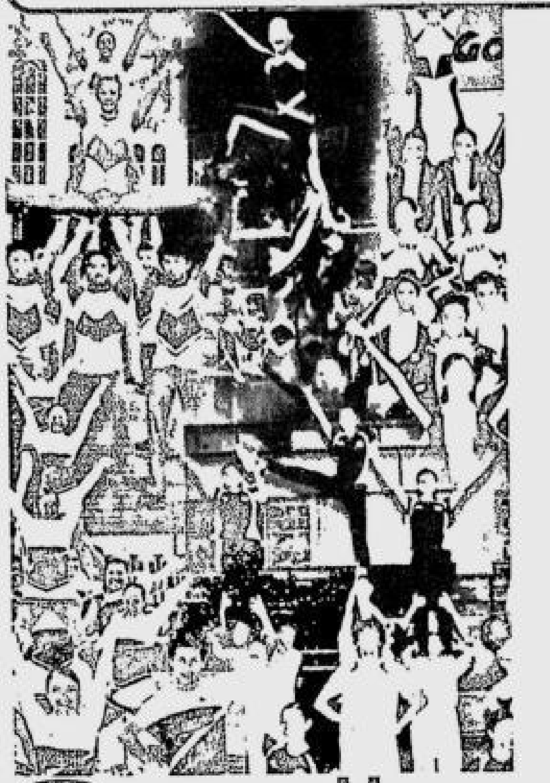
Sports hangover

We had so much fun working on the launch of 2bU! Sports last week that we were all hit with a sports hangover. This week we give you the 411 on Kobe Bryant's Supernatural visit to Manila, an explosive radio face-off between the Blue Eagles and the Green Archers, and a big spread on the pep squads of the UAAP who will be competing this weekend







Smells like school spirit

The UAAP cheerdance competition is on at the Araneta Coliseum this Sunday!

By Ruth L. Navarra and Patrick Leonard M. Mayo,
2bU! Contributor

THE END OF THE ELIMINATION round for the University Athletic Association of the Philippines basketball means only one thing: the cheerdance competition is on.

All eight school members will meet head to head in the Araneta Coliseum this Sunday to vie for the title. The only spoiler we can say about this year's event is that major sponsor Samsung does not expect teams to come up with a Samsung cheer, hallelujah.

If half-time showdowns are a preview of what to expect, then the competition this weekend will be interesting and surprising.

We've seen the Far Eastern University Cheering Squad teaming up with the University of the Philippines Pep Squad during half-time, when their teams faced each other for the first time. We've heard the Adamson University Pep Squad beating the familiar cheers of all the schools, including Ateneo Blue Babble Battalion, De La Salle University Cheering Squad and the University of Santo Tomas Yellow Jackets, to the delight of the crowd last Sunday.

High morale

The cheering squads are responsible for a lot of things. They are responsible for keeping the morale high even when their team is burdened with a 20-point deficit. They keep their community from becoming too rowdy. They lead their schoolmates in singing the school hymns.

Most importantly, they give their school a reason to be proud.

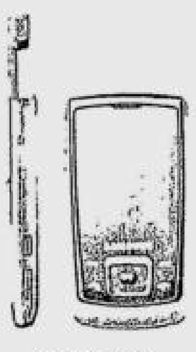
Even when they look like they're having a lot of fun during the half-time period, the teams invest a lot of hard work on their pyramids, basket tosses and tumbling passes.

Most teams practice three to four hours every single day during the basketball season. The training hours get even longer a month before the competition.

The members also have to allot their weekends to polishing their routines. Yet, they still have to find a way to study for the midterms. They are always students first, cheerleaders second.

Sprains, ACLs, fractures? They shrug it off. They know the risks involved in the stunts they do.

SMELLS/ C2



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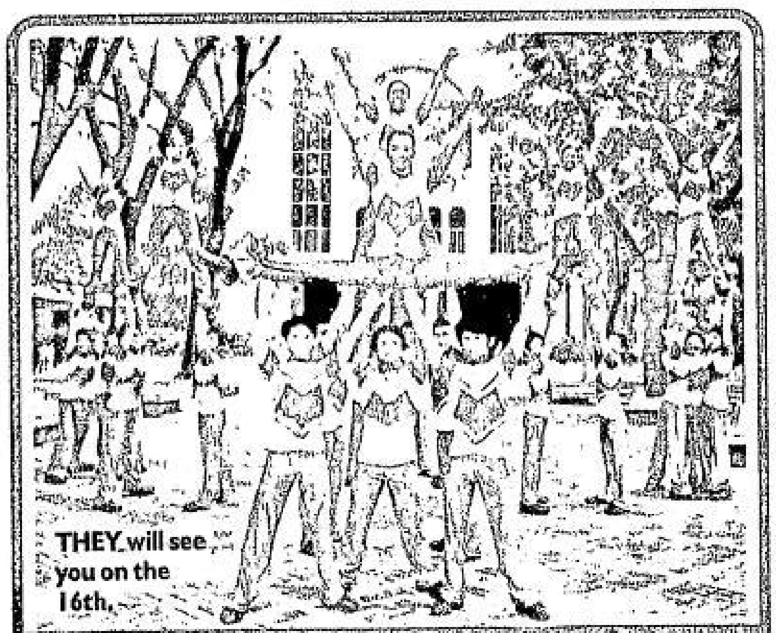


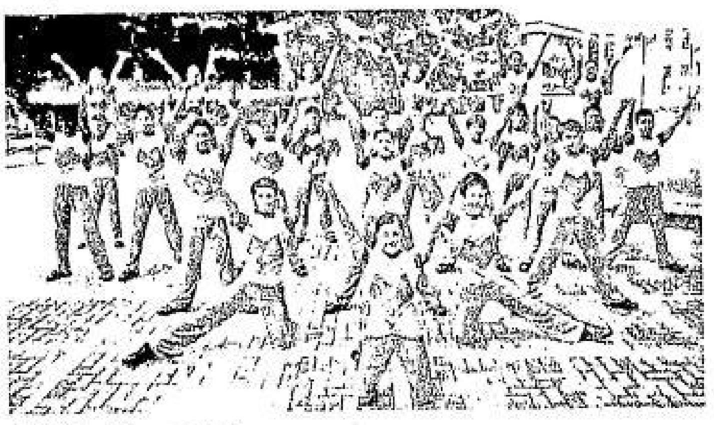
THEY will see you on the 16th.

FEU Cheering Squad

Coach: Jacqueline Alolor
Captain: Chester Carlos
Members: 8 girls, 17 boys
Title held: 1998 champion
Place last year: Second place
Message to their supporters: We ask that you pray and support us this Sunday because we will do everything to make you proud!
Message to their opponents: We will see them on the 16th and goodluck to them!
The lowdown:

Last year's bridesmaid only wants one thing this year: Win! Win! Win! It's been eight years since the squad last tasted gold and its members are aching to get the title back to Morayta.

They were pleasantly surprised to find out last year that high school and college students from Mindanao are familiar with their moves and are able to perform them, too. This team has proven that they are worthy of admiration and emulation from all over the country. They never run out of ideas and there's always something to watch out for from the Tamaraws!



LET'S go Tamaraws!

NO MORE runner-ups, they're ready to be champs again. RYAN LIM

UST Salinggawi Dance Troupe

WILL they pull off another championship this year?

Choreographer: Ryan Silva
Captain: Kim Margarita San Juan
Members: 11 girls, 14 boys
Titles held: 1995-1997, 2002-2006 champions
Message to their supporters: Thanks for the all-out support during half times and our concerts. Please also support the Yellow Jackets
Message to their opponents: Let's enjoy the competition and share our talents with the crowd.

EIGHT titles and counting!

ARMED

The lowdown:

For their dominance the past 12 years and as the defending champs, the Salinggawi Dance Troupe remains the team to beat in this year's cheerdance competition. The group keeps their routine a secret by practicing inside the UST seminary gym. In this secluded place, the only people privy to their perfor-

Smells like school spi

Some teams are lucky to get support from their fellow students and school administration, while some have to wait for hours for their turn in the gym. Some have choreographers to take care of their practices, while others have to train without one.

Yet they go on. Minor injury is not enough reason to stop a dancer from performing. Last year, some members of the University of the East Cheering Squad competed while in casts.

It only goes to show that when school pride is at stake, the only way to do one's job is with passion. Perhaps, if we dissect the hearts of these warriors, we would find school colors inside.

Great secrecy

Most teams close the gym doors as soon as they have completed their dance sequence for the competition. Some even relocate when practicing to keep their routines secret up until the very last minute. The security measures they take are unbelievable.

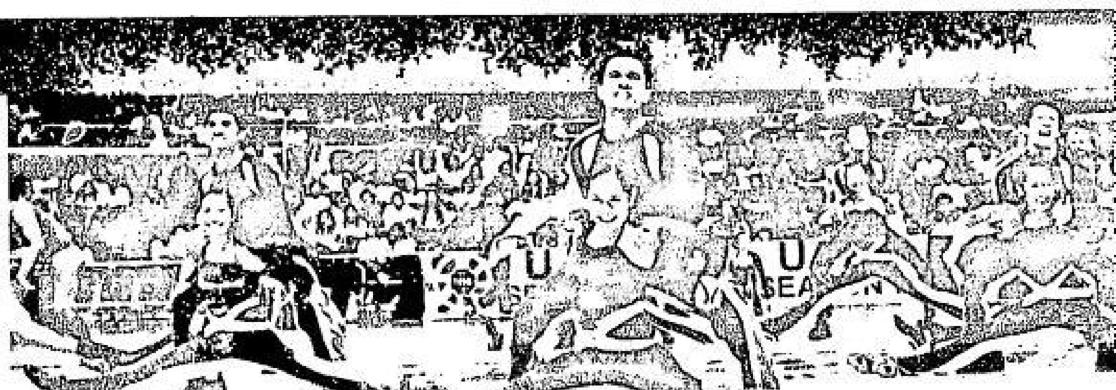
Why the secrecy for a seven-minute routine? Some say they've had experiences in the past where their routines were ripped off by other teams. In the competition, originality is everything.

But when competition gets ugly between schools, it takes a squad like the National University Pep Squad to remind everyone wha

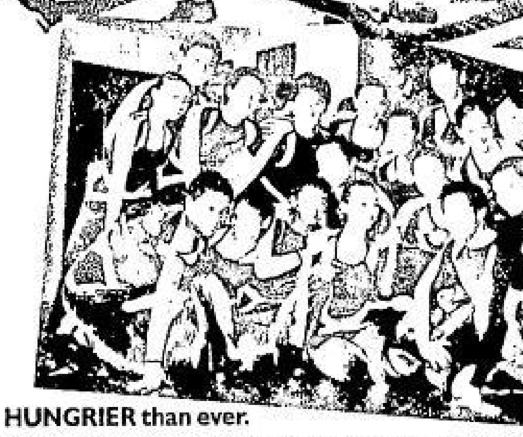
UP Pep Squad

Coach: Lalaine Pereña
Captains: Pio Opinaldo and Andrea Gonzales
Titles held: 1999-2001 champions
Place last year: Third place
Message to their supporters: We want to show our supporters a routine that should lay to rest any doubts as to who the winner should be.
Message to their opponents: When you prepare for the rain (something that you want or need), God will give what you prepared for. So we're now prepared and are still preparing.
The lowdown:

After holding the cheerdance title for three consecutive years from 1999-2001, The Diliman-based pep squad is hungry for another crack at glory. But they are not putting too much pressure on themselves this year, according to their co-captain Andrea Gonzales. Sure, they want to win, but they want to have fun as well.



BRAVE, smart and fearless



HUNGRIER than ever.

The squad has been training fo two months, from four hours to the entire day, rain or shine, typh stricken or not. A marked improv their dancing and gymnastic skil expected, something that they ha cused on this year as they put a p on the form and technique of the It's part of their goal to win, and convincing fashion.

UE Cheering Squad

SIZZLING red-hot warriors

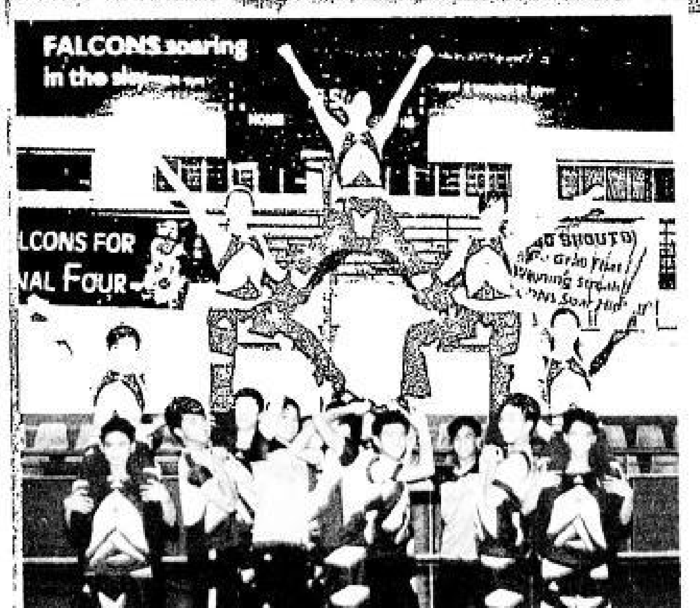
Choreographer: Allan Galvez
Captain: Stephanie dela Cruz
Members: 10 girls, 14 boys
Message to their supporters: I hope you guys support us because we've been cheering and representing the school the whole year.
Message to the opponents: Good luck to all of you and you will see the new UE.
The lowdown:

With barely a week before the competi

UE/ C4

OUT to brave the competition
RYAN LIM

Adamson Pep Squad



FALCONS soaring in the sk

Adviser: Rommel Tilbe
Captain: Rhea B. Raguin
Members: 9 girls, 16 boy
Message to their suppo ask for their support and thank our former choreo Donel Rabanal. He would our inspiration because one who honed our skills

EVEN without a choreog

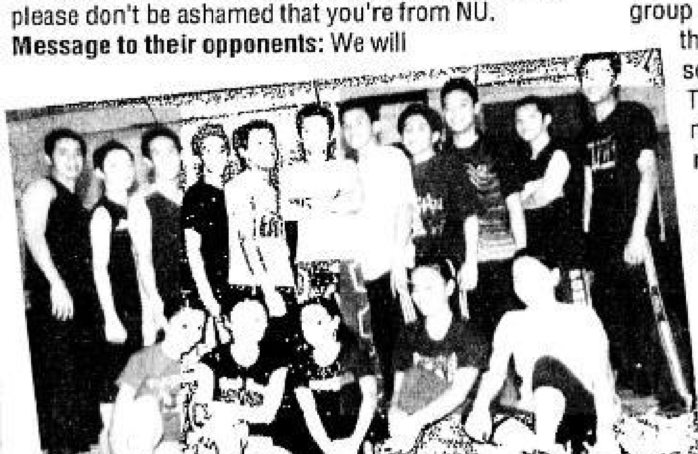
NU Pep Squad

THEIR school's pride

Coach: Rosario Leticia Garcia
Captain: John Benedict Gasillos
Members: 6 girls, 11 boys
Message to their supporters: Please support us and please don't be ashamed that you're from NU.
Message to their opponents: We will pray for you. Let's pray for each other.
The lowdown:

No other team has shown perseverance and strength as much as this team. Only 17 people make up their group when they really need 25 to complete it. The rest they've lost to injuries and to the new rule that high school students can't perform in the competition. They were informed about the new ruling only a month ago, after they've extensively rehearsed routines with seven high school students.

Because of the school's small population, the group doesn't have reserve dancers. The new ruling almost crippled the squad, but its remaining members go on. "*Matira ang matibay sa amin,*" says their captain. They don't expect to win the title this year, but they want to show the other schools that they will fight and lift NU's pride!



PROUD to be a bulldog
RYAN LIM

YOU can't

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mance are the seminarians! They do plan to show their moves to the rest of the Thomasian community sometime this week.

For their 6-peat campaign, Kim says they are experimenting with new pyramids and transitions. What we know for sure is that an ocean of yellow shirts will be there to support them.

Ateneo Blue Babble Battalion

Choreographer: Randell San Gregorio
Captains: Barbara M. Escueta and Arc Tolentino
Members: 15 girls and 10 boys
Message to their supporters: Usually we cheer for you, this time, please cheer for us.
Message to their opponents: Don't forget to have fun.
The lowdown:

Nothing to lose and a lot to gain is the attitude of the Ateneo Blue Babble Battalion, whose members are looking to barge at

ATENEO/ C4

NOTHING to lose but everything to gain

ONE big fight!

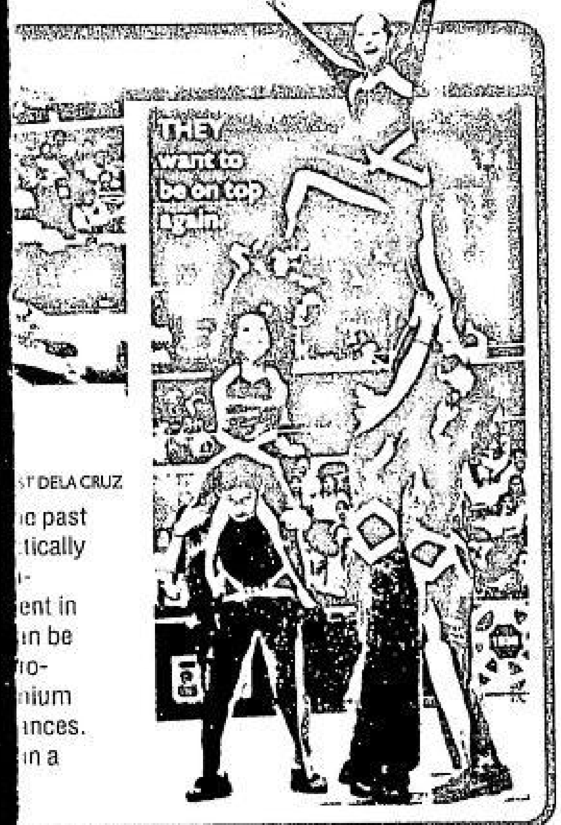
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

rit

From page C1

"Our main goal is to uplift the morale of our fellow students. We want them to know that we can do the things other schools can do. We want them to be proud that they're from NU."

So, if you're from Diliman, Morayta, Recto, Katipunan, San Marcelino, Taft, Sampaloc or España, there's a reason to be out this Sunday. Whether we'll witness the continuation of a dynasty or the beginning of a new era, there's always something to cheer about.



THEY want to be on top again

T DELA CRUZ

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dancing.
Message to the opponents: Dance with all of your heart.
The lowdown:

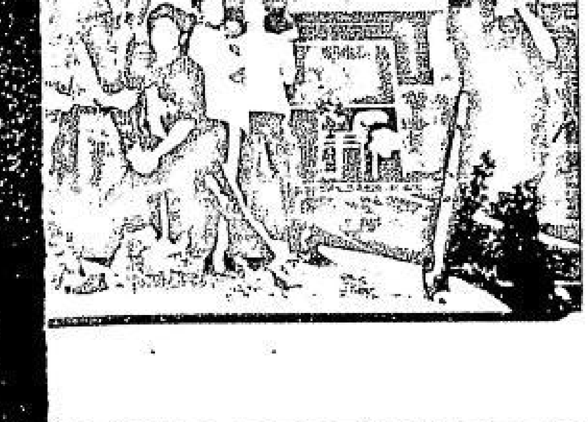
Having no official choreographer won't stop the Adamson Pep Squad from wading into the cheerdance competition this coming Sunday.

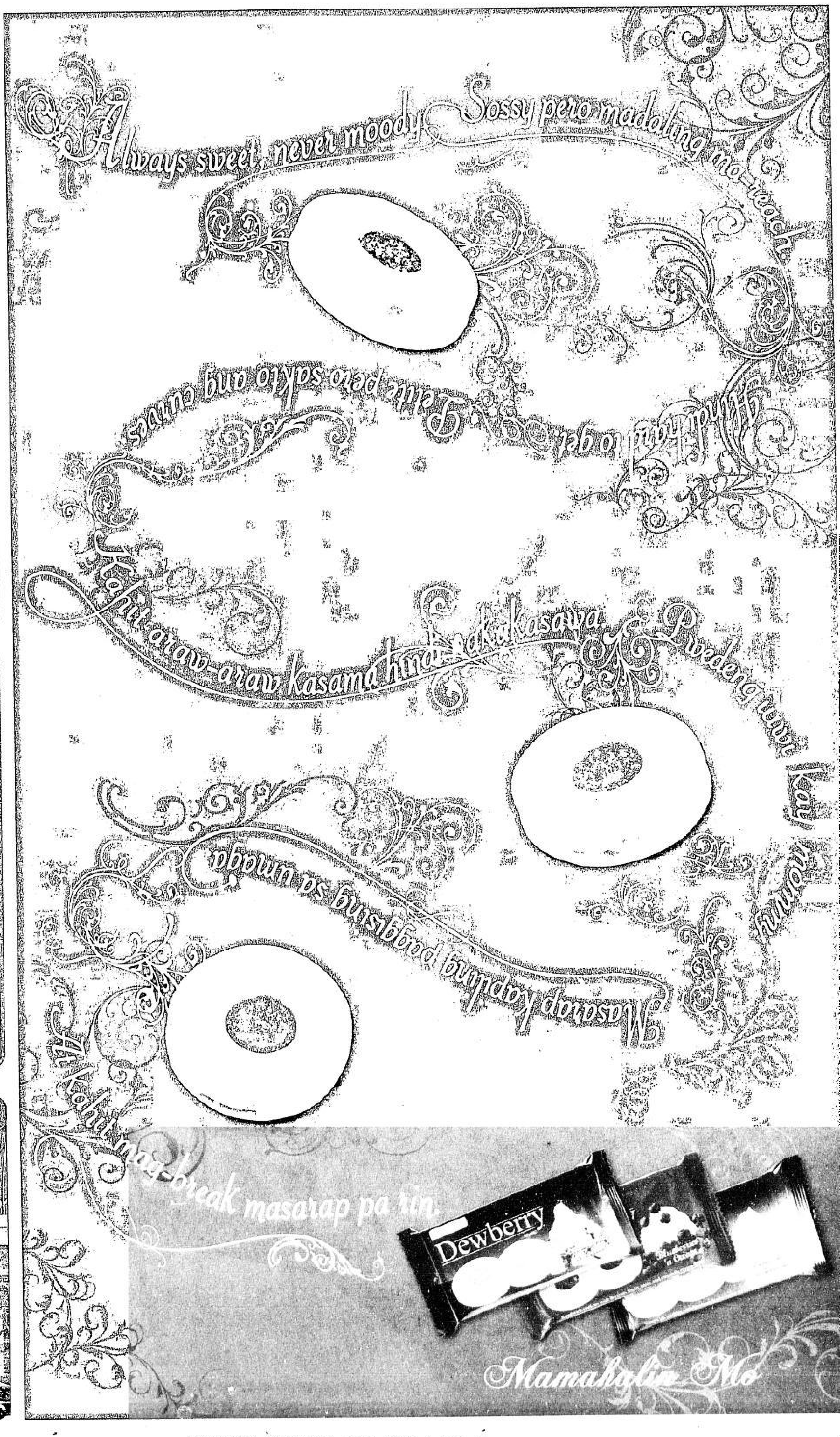
ADAMSON/ C4

er, they're forging on.

ROGER CARPIO

g a good team down.




Always sweet, never moody.
Sossy pero madaling ma-reach.
Hindi hard to get.
Petite pero sakto ang curves
Kahit araw-araw kasama hindi nakakasawa.
Pwedeng iuwi kay mommy
Masarap kapiling paggising sa umaga
Kahit mag-break masarap pa rin.
Dewberry
Mamahalin Mo

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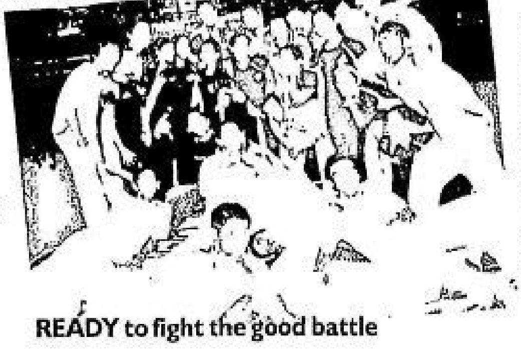
DLSU Cheering Squad

ANIMO La Salle!

Coach: Ramon Pagaudan IV
President and heads: Andro Garde, Jeana Santos, Andrew Maravillas
Members: 9 girls and 15 boys
The lowdown:

After being sidelined at last year's cheerdance competition, the DLSU Pep Squad is determined to send a loud message that they're back, despite the many challenges they're facing as they head into this year's competition. Just last week, one of their members suffered a bad fall during practice, relegating her to the sidelines. The lineup is now mostly composed of rookies.

Major changes are expected from the squad in this year's competition. They've been practicing stunts with higher degrees of difficulty since July. And to add some color to the rivalry with their age-old nemesis from Katipunan, the boys of the DLSU Pep squad are also veering towards more dancing, but still with hints of the traditional movements that they've been known for.


READY to fight the good battle

Message to their supporters: I wish you guys would support us and believe in us because we are trying to do our best and we won't let you down.
Message to their opponents: We respect them and we hope they give us the best they could. We're back, so watch out!

THEY'RE back!

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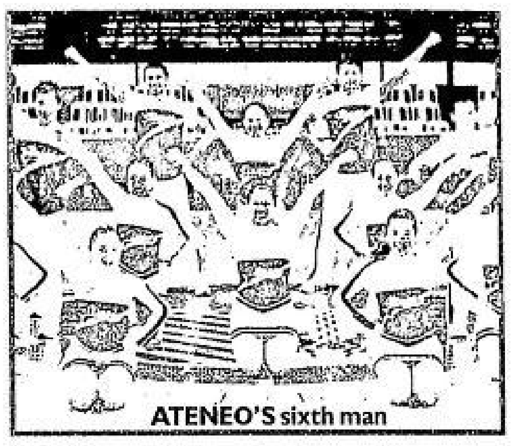
ATENEO'S sixth man

Ateneo Blue Babble Battalion

From page C2

least into the top three of this year's cheerdance competition, something that has proven elusive to the squad from Katipunan. Members of the squad who are competing in this year's tournament had to undergo tryouts and rigid screenings in order to find the best fit for their competition routine.

Pyramids and high-flying moves on the side can be expected of the squad this year. The boys who were traditionally known for their seemingly stationary movements are also taking a step forward as they will try to bust new dance moves. But their primary goal is to execute their routine to perfection, and thus entertain the crowd and win the crown.

EYES on a higher prize this year

Adamson Pep Squad

From page C2

Current members of the squad and some of their alumni have joined forces to come up with the new routine they will unveil at the competition.

For the whole season heading into Sunday, the members have focused on improving their "hardcore" stunts like transitional pyramids and power moves. Like the "carousel" move that they pulled off last year, they promise their supporters and opponents alike something new come competition day.

THEY aim to please the Recto crowd.

UE Cheering Squad

From page C2

tion, the routine of the UE Cheering Squad is still incomplete. But they're not worried because they know they'll pull through on Sunday. Most of the routines come from the dancers themselves, since they don't have a choreographer to guide them. They do promise to bring something different to the arena this year.

The Warriors are out for blood, so others better take heed.

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KOBE Bryant

The KOBE conundrum

Criticized as a swellhead, the NBA superstar was however a disarming and charming presence in Manila

By Adrian Dy
2bU! Correspondent

"S*i Shaq na nga lang dapat 'yung pumunta dito, hindi si* Kobe. *Mas mabait si* Shaq (Shaq should have come here instead of Kobe, Shaq is nicer)," someone whispered as we counted the minutes until Kobe Bryant showed up for his Supernatural press conference. It was a comment that was out of place at that moment, but not unheard of in the world of basketball-holics and hoops heads.

Named after the famous Japanese beef, it seems as if Kobe has courted controversy from the start of his NBA career. Selected 13th by the then-Charlotte Hornets, Bryant was the first guard drafted out of high school. He was also the first high school guard to hold out, refusing to play for the team that selected him. Fifteen days after the draft, the Los Angeles Lakers offered the Hornets their starting center Vlade Divac in a trade of Bryant. The rest is history.

In sharp contrast to the journalist who made the Shaq comment, a group of 20-something guys were seated at a table, swapping stories of their favorite moments involving Bryant. They had the latest issue of Slam Magazine left open to the centerfold poster of Bryant. They also held up a large poster of the Laker. It was unlikely that Bryant would be doing signings, but if he did, they were ready.

THE KOBE/ D3

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"Training future leaders is a hard task, but Sun makes our job easier by keeping us all connected at 50% less the cost."

Junior Chamber International-Manila (Manila Jaycees) President, Louie Basilio

The country has changed a lot since the Manila Jaycees held its first organizational meeting sixty years ago. But its character has stayed consistent – it continues to be seen as a "University of Leaders", with its members as its students, leadership development as its curriculum and the world as its campus.

And Sun, of course, keeps them all together.

The Manila Jaycees was organized to help each member reach new heights in their respective careers and become leaders in their communities. Sun now helps them carry out their plans of success. With most members choosing Sun, communication is easier, faster and more convenient. Reminders regarding community development projects, skill development programs and seminars are easily circulated via text-messaging.

"We can be in touch with members anywhere, all the time," says Manila Jaycees President, Louie Basilio. "There's no need to cut calls short. No need to worry about texting too much. For urgent meetings, we can even teleconference because of the truly unlimited calls of Sun! We save a lot of time and money, thanks to Sun."

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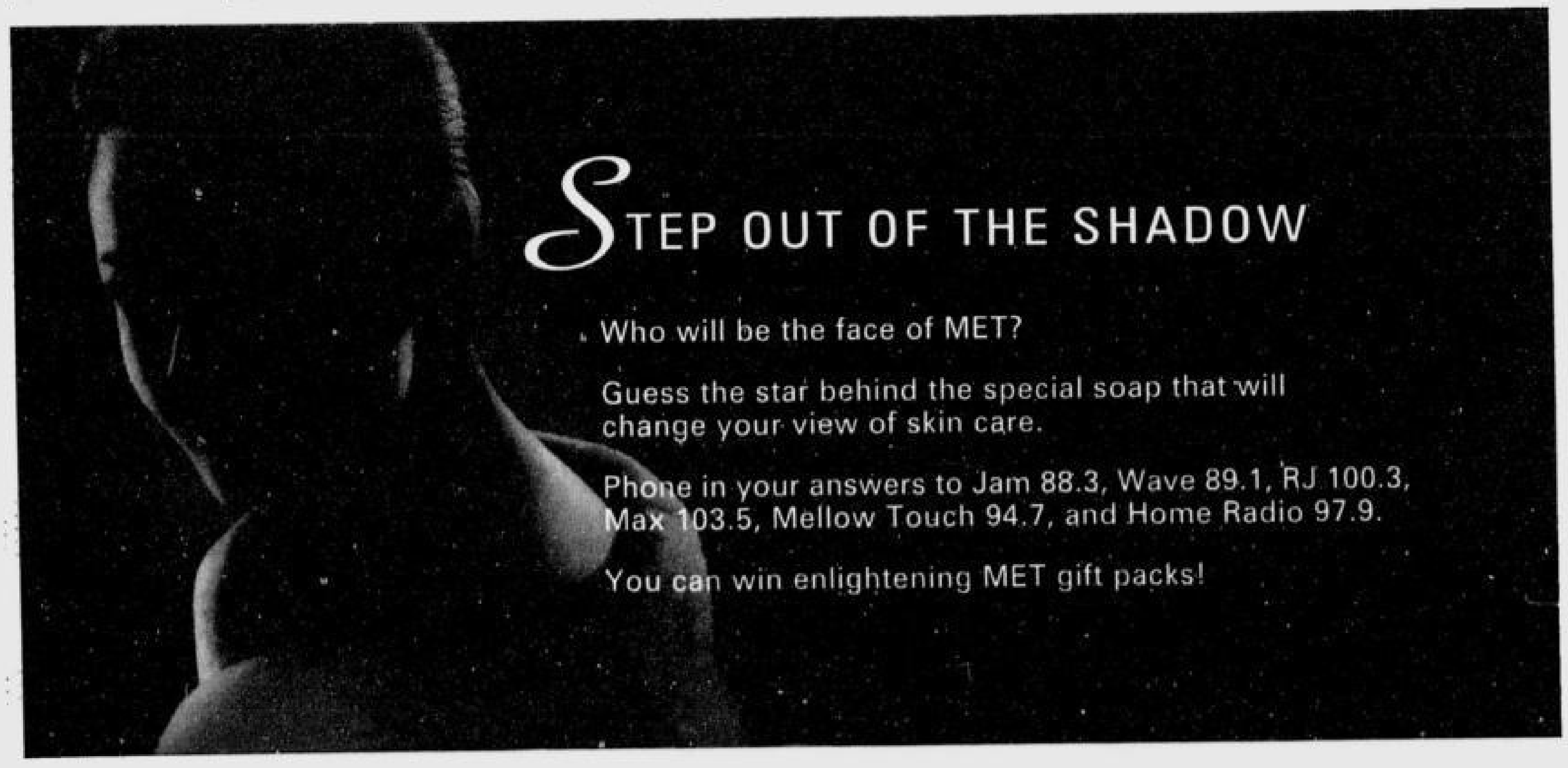

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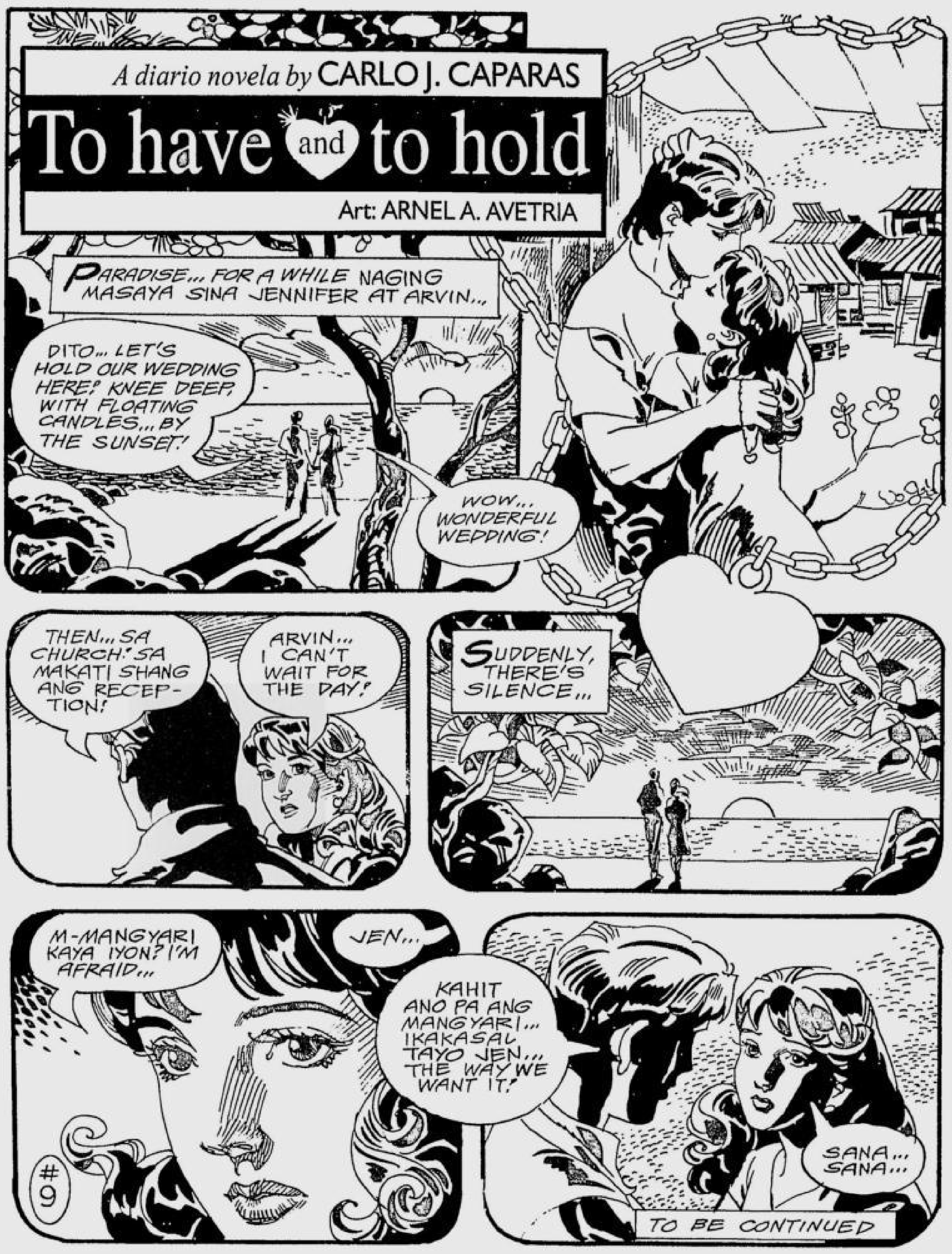
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS
To have and to hold
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA
PARADISE… FOR A WHILE NAGING MASAYA SINA JENNIFER AT ARVIN…
DITO… LET'S HOLD OUR WEDDING HERE! KNEE DEEP, WITH FLOATING CANDLES… BY THE SUNSET!
WOW… WONDERFUL WEDDING!
THEN… SA CHURCH! SA MAKATI SHANG ANG RECEPTION!
ARVIN… I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE DAY!
SUDDENLY, THERE'S SILENCE…
M-MANGYARI KAYA IYON? I'M AFRAID…
JEN…
KAHIT ANO PA ANG MANGYARI… IKAKASAL TAYO JEN… THE WAY WE WANT IT!
#9
SANA… SANA…
TO BE CONTINUED

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Disgrace
6 Arab garments
10 High point
14 Added to the payroll
15 Aussie's pal
16 Molt
17 Unaided
18 Como __ Usted?
19 Subdue
20 Sculptor's problem?
23 Orange chalcedony
24 Move, to a realtor
25 Thurman of "Batman & Robin"
28 Jaffe and Neill
30 Long narrow elevations
34 Kitchen utensils
36 Scorch
38 Rich dessert
39 Groom's problem?
42 __ nous (confidentially)
43 CD alternative
44 Coup d'__
45 Evidences a response
47 Transgressions
49 Japanese volcano
50 Historic periods
52 Stag mates
54 Dean's problem?
61 Sit on the throne
62 Jai __
63 Crownlet
64 Altar vows
65 Will of "The Waltons"
66 Playful aquatic mammal
67 Puts in stitches
68 Cicero's being
69 Pee Wee of Ebbets Field

DOWN
1 Spurious imitation
2 Hawaiian city
3 Presley's middle name
4 Option lists
5 Swellings
6 Constitutional add-on
7 Rope fiber
8 Essence from rose petals
9 Painter's undercoating
10 Spot for celestial navigation
11 Lightly burn
12 Brief office note
13 German river
21 Obliterate
22 Chosen few
25 Higher of two
26 Seine tributary
27 Hill or Loos
29 Heroic tales
31 Garbo of "Ninotchka"
32 Old lab burners
33 Brief fight
35 Sibyl
37 Machine-gun setting
40 Fashionably nostalgic
41 Type of salami
46 Barbaric
48 Military division
51 Monica of tennis
53 Connecting rooms
54 "Trinity" author
55 Hosiery hue
56 Deere product
57 Highland negatives
58 Behind time
59 Very French?
60 Maneuverable, at sea

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
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17					■	18				■	19			
20					21					22				
■	■	■	23				■	24				■	■	■
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■	■	■	50			51	■	52			53	■	■	■
54	55	56					57					58	59	60
61				■	62				■	63				
64				■	65				■	66				
67				■	68				■	69				

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
9/12/07

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

I	R	A	■	W	I	D	E	S	T	■	S	C	A	M
N	A	G	■	H	A	U	L	E	R	■	P	O	R	E
C	I	N	C	I	N	N	A	T	I	■	E	M	I	T
U	S	U	R	P	■	D	N	A	■	G	A	M	E	S
R	E	S	U	L	T	E	D	■	B	A	K	U	■	■
■	■	■	R	A	R	E	■	T	A	L	E	N	T	S
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E	A	U	■	H	A	Y	S	E	E	D	■	S	P	A
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P	U	T	S	■	W	A	R	S	A	W	■	L	A	S

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9/12/07

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		4	6	7				
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7		3				1		
5		2				7		
8			3			9		
	9				6	2		
		7	1	5	3	6	4	
						5	2	9
							7	1

Difficulty Level ★★★
9/12

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Answer to previous puzzle

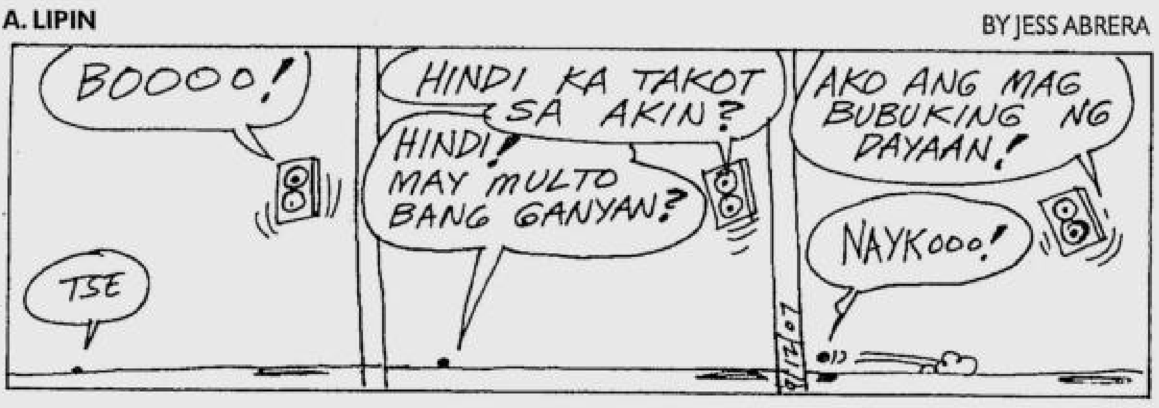
4	1	9	6	3	7	5	8	2
5	8	7	1	2	4	6	9	3
2	6	3	9	5	8	1	4	7
6	5	8	3	1	9	7	2	4
1	9	4	7	6	2	8	3	5
7	3	2	8	4	5	9	1	6
9	4	6	5	8	3	2	7	1
3	7	1	2	9	6	4	5	8
8	2	5	4	7	1	3	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★
9/11

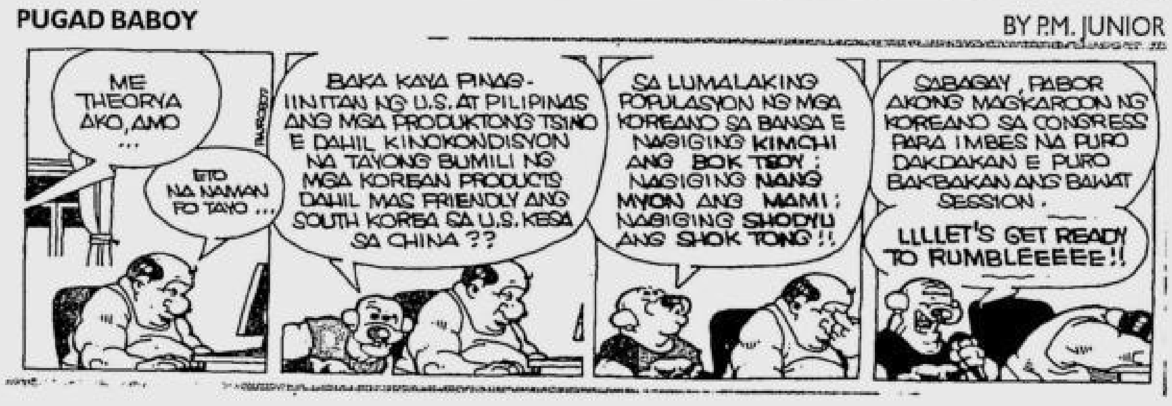
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

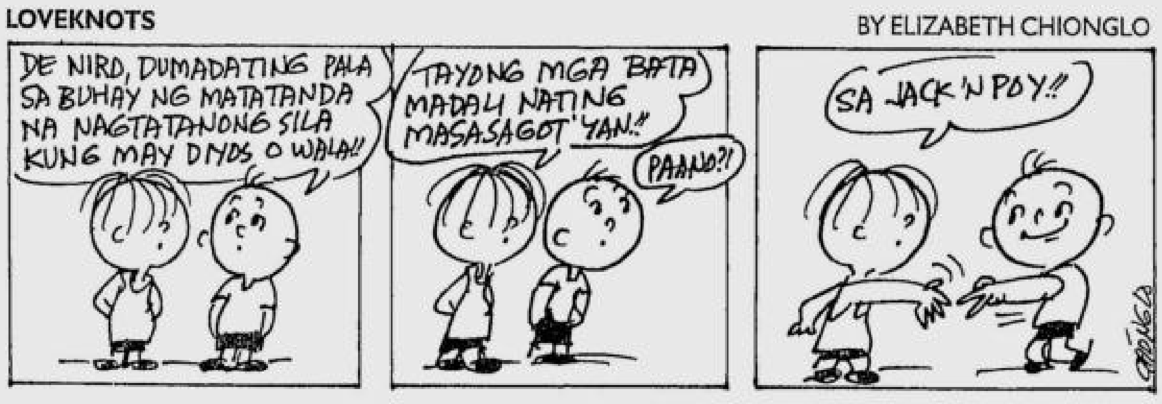
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


BOOOO!
TSE
HINDI KA TAKOT SA AKIN?
HINDI! MAY MULTO BANG GANYAN?
AKO ANG MAG BUBUKING NG DAYAAN!
NAYKooo!
9/12/07

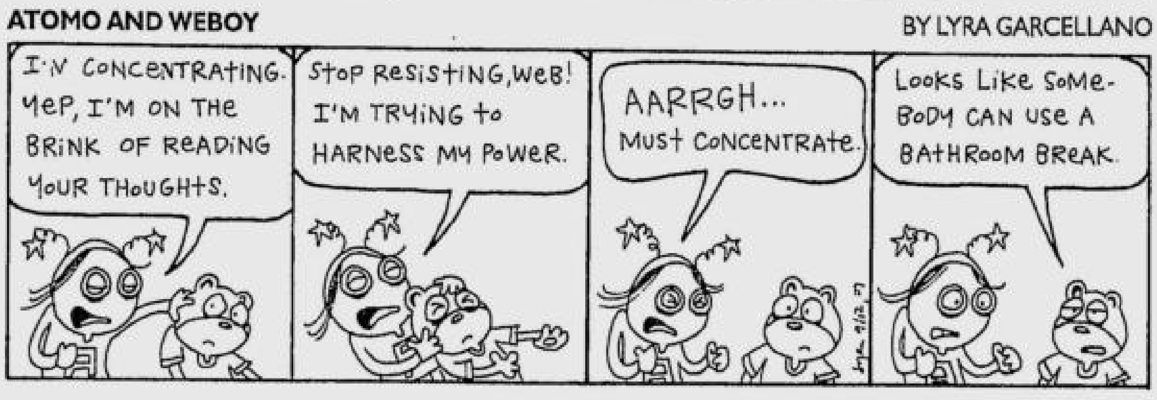
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ME THEORYA AKO, AMO …
ETO NA NAMAN PO TAYO …
BAKA KAYA PINAG-IINITAN NG U.S. AT PILIPINAS ANG MGA PRODUKTONG TSINO E DAHIL KINOKONDISYON NA TAYONG BUMILI NG MGA KOREAN PRODUCTS DAHIL MAS FRIENDLY ANG SOUTH KOREA SA U.S. KESA SA CHINA??
SA LUMALAKING POPULASYON NG MGA KOREANO SA BANSA E NAGIGING KIMCHI ANG BOK TSOY; NAGIGING NANG MYON ANG MAMI; NAGIGING SHODYU ANG SHOK TONG!!
SABAGAY, PABOR AKONG MAGKAROON NG KOREANO SA CONGRESS PARA IMBES NA PURO DAKDAKAN E PURO BAKBAKAN ANG BAWAT SESSION.
LLLLET'S GET READY TO RUMBLEEEEE!!

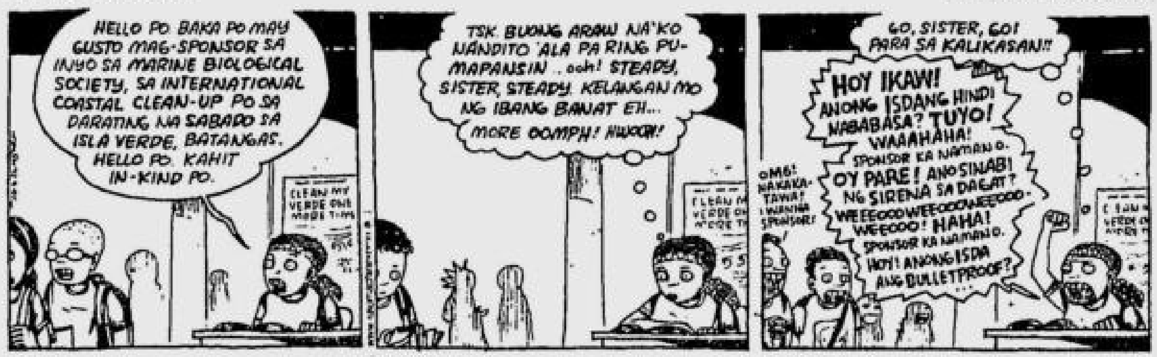
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, DUMADATING PALA SA BUHAY NG MATATANDA NA NAGTATANONG SILA KUNG MAY DYOS O WALA!!
TAYONG MGA BATA MADALI NATING MASASAGOT 'YAN!!
PAANO?!
SA JACK 'N POY!!
CHIONGLO

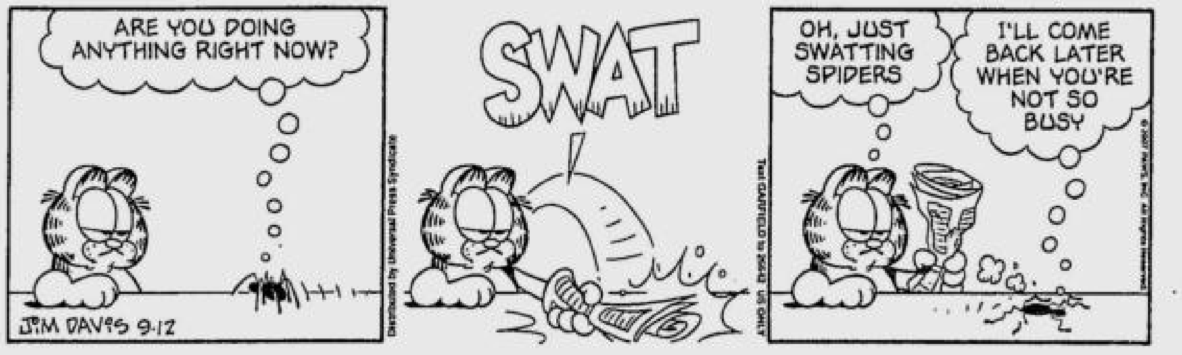
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M CONCENTRATING. YEP, I'M ON THE BRINK OF READING YOUR THOUGHTS.
STOP RESISTING, WEB! I'M TRYING TO HARNESS MY POWER.
AARRGH… MUST CONCENTRATE.
LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY CAN USE A BATHROOM BREAK.

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


HELLO PO. BAKA PO MAY GUSTO MAG-SPONSOR SA INYO SA MARINE BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY, SA INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP PO SA DARATING NA SABADO SA ISLA VERDE, BATANGAS. HELLO PO. KAHIT IN-KIND PO.
TSK. BUONG ARAW NA'KO NANDITO 'ALA PA RING PUMAPANSIN ..ooh! STEADY, SISTER, STEADY. KELANGAN MO NG IBANG BANAT EH… MORE OOMPH! HUOOH!
GO, SISTER, GO! PARA SA KALIKASAN!!
HOY IKAW! ANONG ISDANG HINDI NABABASA? TUYO! WAAAHAHA! SPONSOR KA NAMAN O. OY PARE! ANO SINABI NG SIRENA SA DAGAT? WEEEOOOWEEOOOWEEOOO-WEEOOO! HAHA! SPONSOR KA NAMAN O. HOY! ANONG ISDA ANG BULLETPROOF?
OMG! NAKAKA-TAWA! WANNA SPONSOR!
CLEAN MY VERDE ONE MORE TIME

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS


ARE YOU DOING ANYTHING RIGHT NOW?
SWAT
OH, JUST SWATTING SPIDERS
I'LL COME BACK LATER WHEN YOU'RE NOT SO BUSY
JIM DAVIS 9-12

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're witty, clever and a skilled communicator. You care about your reputation. Fortunately, you shine in your relationships with others. You can be successful in many fields, especially where you need the courage to speak your mind. Honesty and dignity are yours. In your early 40s, you get in touch with your power. In the year ahead, you will have a major decision to make.

Birthdate of: Jennifer Hudson, singer/actress; Sir Ian Holm, actor; George Chuvalo, boxer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a great day to discuss big plans with friends and partners. You might want to plan a road trip or how you can travel somewhere.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Things can go well at work today, especially during discussions with co-workers. Everybody is keen to see the big picture. People are not petty. It's a feel-good, upbeat day.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today just gets better and better as it wears on. Your ruler, Mercury, is making a lovely aspect to lucky Jupiter. This makes you optimistic about your future and your love life!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is an excellent day for family discussions or making home repairs. Make plans for future events that might affect your home or your family. Everything looks good.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're naturally enthusiastic today. Conversations with siblings and relatives are positive. You quickly see the big picture. Writing, studying and reading will be a pleasure.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is an excellent day for business and commerce. When it comes to finances or how you can earn money, you're thinking big, and you're thinking optimistically!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You'll find it easier to see how you fit in to the bigger scheme of things today. You might see patterns in your life unfolding, or you might have a better idea of where you're headed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Research into anything will go extremely well today. You want the bottom line. Furthermore, you're confident you will find it.

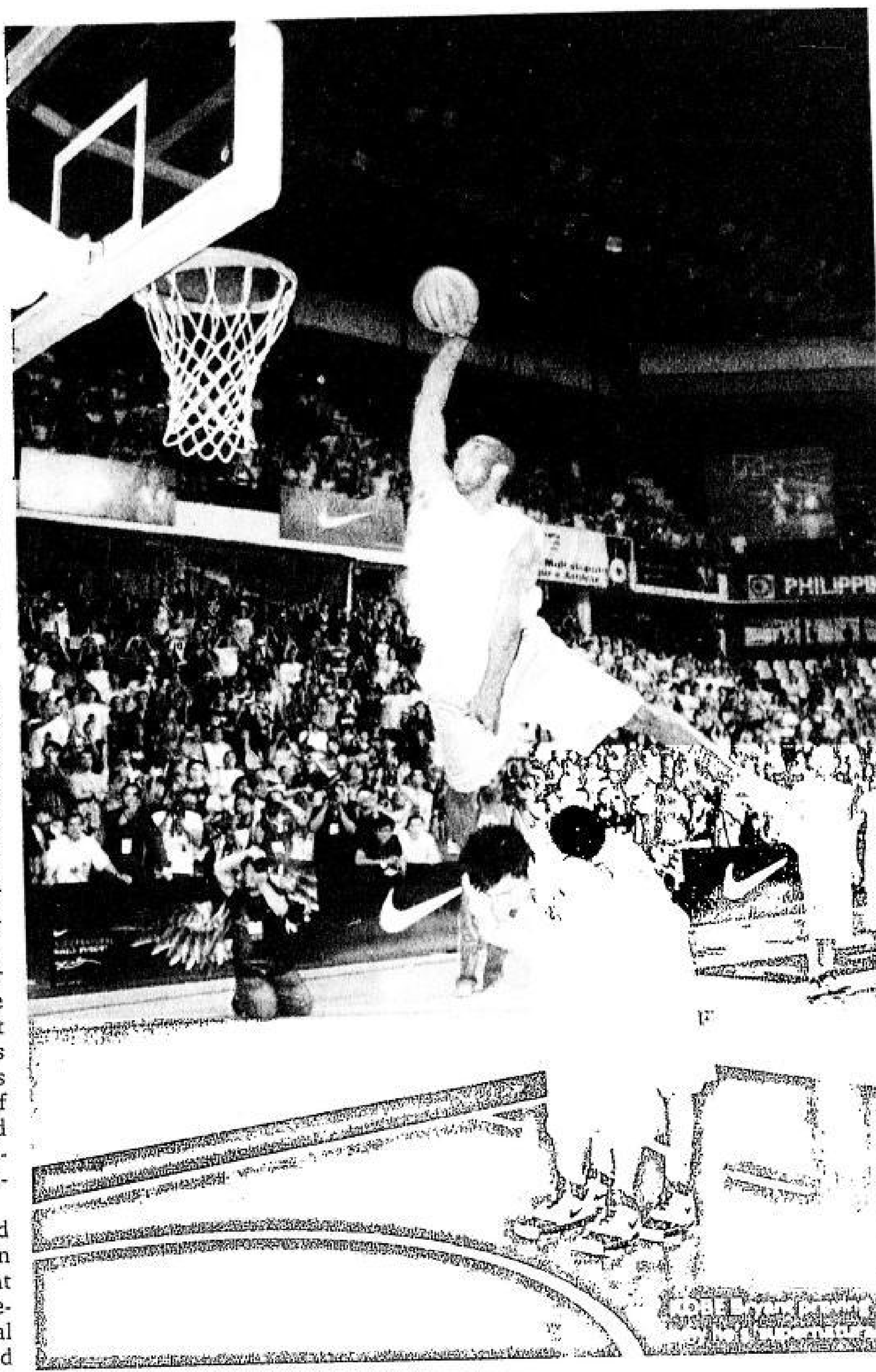
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Group activities will please you today. You might travel with a friend or make plans to travel with others. Talk about your future goals with others.

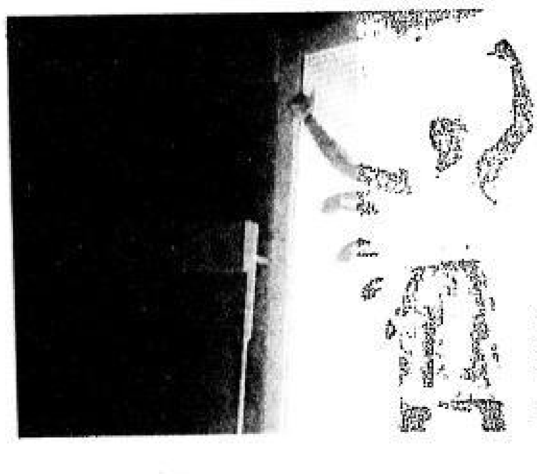
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is an excellent day to talk to bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs. They're impressed with your vision and how you see what is possible in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): What a marvelous day to study, read, research or explore new ideas. It's also a good day to travel. You want to learn more in order to expand your experience of the world.

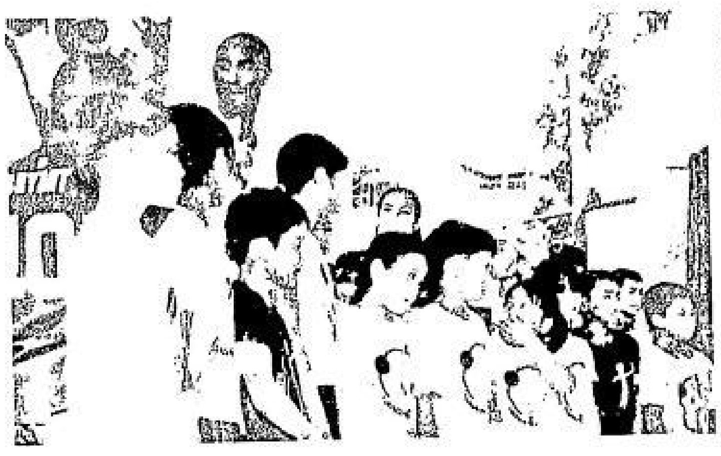
PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Discussions with others about shared property will go well today. This is a good day for finances and settling debt.

The Kobe conundrum



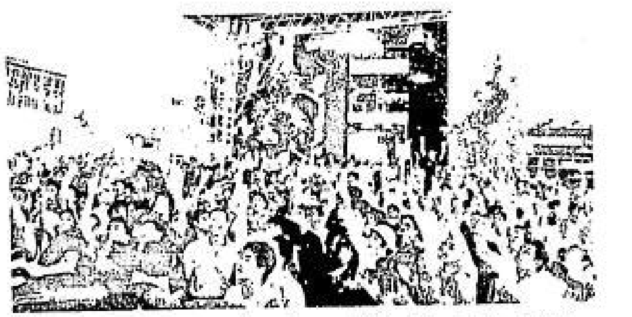


KOBE Bryant headlines the basketball show of the year, The Supernatural Asia Tour 2007—Manila leg.



POSING with the lucky kids of Eliseo Belen Elementary School from Mabalacat, Pampanga

TWO young fans of Kobe



HUNDREDS of fans lined up at Nike Park, The Fort, to catch a glimpse of their basketball idol, Kobe Bryant.

KOBE Bryant along with members of the Nike Elite Camp, coach Eric Altamirano (far left) and Alex Compton (far right)

From page D1

With Shaquille O'Neal as Bryant's partner on the latter's second year and with Phil Jackson as head coach, the Lakers went for back-to-back-to-back NBA Championships from 2000-2002. Individually, Bryant's stock also rose, garnering multiple All-Star nods, All-Defensive Selections, and All-NBA selections. Unbeknownst to Bryant, in two years time, he would go through one of the most difficult periods of his life: the rape case against him.

'Mabuhay'

Kobe Bryant took centerstage at around 1 p.m., two hours late. Despite the mutterings and "we want Kobe!" cheers that broke out over and over while people waited, all the negative feelings disappeared the moment he took the stage, greeting us with the customary foreigner-on-Philippine-soil greeting of "Mabuhay!"

Lest we forget, he was here to hawk his new line of shoes, telling us that he was constantly trying to "push the boundaries of product development, to push the game, to make shoes perform better, [and be] lighter, softer." When Bryant walks into a shoe meeting, he says that he just throws out all sorts of ideas, and Nike always faithfully translates them into merchandise.

Four years ago, the superstar lost a gaggle of sponsors when he was slapped with a sexual assault case. The rape investigation was merely the start of a tumultuous season punctuated by a slew of public clashes between him and Shaq, ending in the Lakers' collapse in the NBA Finals to the Detroit Pistons.

The off-season that followed was even murkier. Depending on whom you believe, Bryant might or might not have forced management to choose between O'Neal and him. O'Neal was later shipped out east to the Miami Heat. Phil Jackson's contract was also not renewed. For better or for worse, the Lakers were now to be known as "Kobe's Team."

Charity event

Bryant came to the Philippines to "spread the love of the game to future basketball players."

When discussing his charity event, which would happen immediately following the press conference, he said that it was "extremely important. [It is] an honor and blessing to play basketball, [you] get lots of opportunities to help people."

He is a man who is deeply devoted to his craft. He famously lost 20 pounds when he signed up for the US National Team that went undefeated in the recently concluded FIBA Tournament of the Americas. He called his training regime, "Blackout," because of its intensity. He explained even he had "blacked out" while doing it. It worked though.

In a team with a lot of scorers like Lebron James, Michael Redd and Carmelo Anthony, Bryant eagerly took the role of defensive stopper, shutting down the smaller guards of other teams like Leandro Barbosa and Carlos Arroyo. It also showed a new dimension of Bryant, that of a facilitator, a team player. For most people, it was an eye-opener.

The 2004-2005 season was a disaster for Bryant. Coach Rudy Tomjanovich resigned in the middle of the season and the team missed the playoffs. Things picked up dramatically with the return of Phil Jackson as coach in the 2005-2006 season. That was the season of "81," when Bryant scored the second highest point total by a player in an NBA game. The Lakers also returned to the playoffs that year, taking a 3-1 lead against the Phoenix Suns in their first-round match-up. They were unable to seal the deal, however, and the Suns rallied to take the next four games and advance.

Role model

When asked if he considered himself a role model, Bryant was humble, sort of, saying, "When people talk of role models, society assumes they're perfect. But the definition of role model is someone we should learn from. Kids should learn from his or her mistakes."

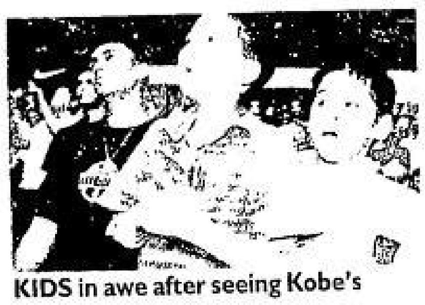
Bryant did wisecrack that the trait that made him so appealing to kids was the fact that he "ditched school" before confessing that it was really because he lived each day as though it were his last. In fact, Bryant was like that for most of the interview.

True, he wasn't the laugh-out-loud clown that O'Neal is in interviews, but he did possess a dry wit that was refreshing.

Bryant further endeared himself to the female portion of the audience by taking off his shirt and leaving on just a jersey top that emphasized his sleek, muscular arms.

Bryant continued to shine in the recently concluded NBA season. He won his second straight NBA scoring title, helped out by four consecutive 50-point games and ten 50-point games total in the season.

History repeated itself however, and the Lakers were once again routed by the Phoenix Suns in the playoffs. Controversy reared its head again when Bryant demanded to be traded if Jerry West, the former general manager who brought in Bryant himself, did not return to the Lakers to replace Mitch Kupchak. He later denied his trade demand, but followed that up three days later with another trade request. Three hours after that, he rescinded his comments yet again.



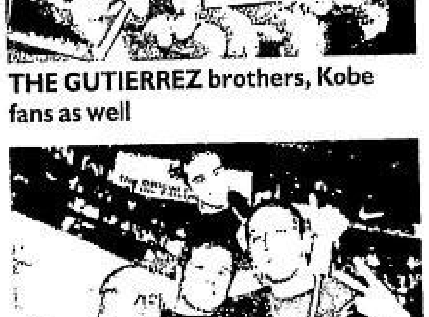
KIDS in awe after seeing Kobe's supernatural dunk

KOBE shares some of his hardcourt defensive techniques with members of the Nike Elite camp.

KOBE Bryant waves at his Filipino fans at Nike Park, The Fort.

ECSTATIC at seeing their basketball icon in the flesh

THE GUTIERREZ brothers, Kobe fans as well



PBA icon Alvin Patrimonio with (left) Dennis Tan, (top) Jake Samson and Raoul Reinoso of Nike

Singing a new tune

Without a doubt, Bryant needs some help if the Lakers are to get past the first round of the playoffs, and even more help if they want to win a championship. It is common knowledge that Bryant is irritated at management for not getting him that help, turning down his requests to trade for, at various times, Baron Davis, Ron Artest, Jason Kidd, and Jermaine O'Neal.

He managed to downplay it though, saying that "whatever happens, happens" when asked if he expected any new faces to join him in training camp. Furthermore, he joked that he would like "the entire Team USA" on the Lakers if they had the cap space.

It isn't hard to paint Bryant as a diva, as a selfish player looking out for himself rather than for the good of the team. After seeing him in person and hearing him speak though, one cannot help but sing a new tune.

"We're all just trying to raise the game," he said when asked for some parting words. And while raising his game is something he does all the time, here he was as well, raising the game of the kids from the Eliseo Belen Charity because he felt that doing so was as important as further refining his jump shot.

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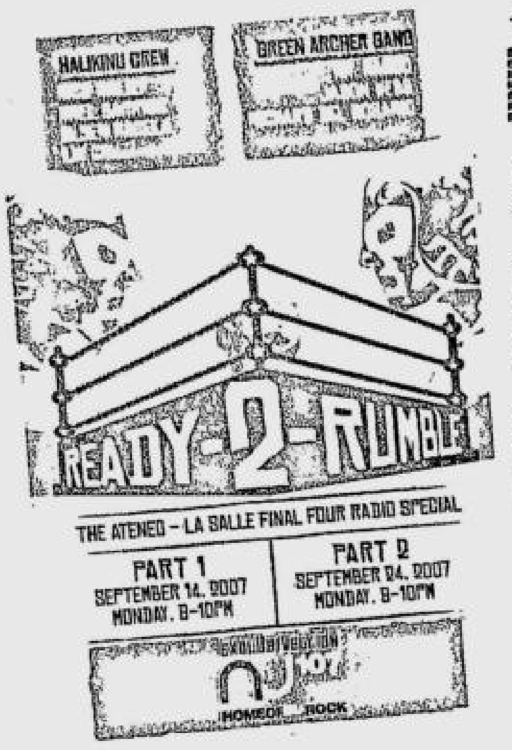
Don't miss the September 16 issue of the Inquirer.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



ATENEO VS LA SALLE

Radio rivalry

By Basti Ticzon
2bU! Contributor

PEOPLE ALREADY KNOW HOW fireworks are exchanged when Ateneo and La Salle battle it out on the hardcourt.

What happens, then, when Eagles and Archers collide on FM radio? Students, faculty and alumni from both schools will find out in "Ready-2-Rumble," a special series of talk shows that merge Ateneo and La Salle personalities in a radio free-for-all.

The idea for "Ready-2-Rumble" emerged when Mico Halili, co-founder of Ateneo's pioneering show "Halikinu Radio," and Richard del Rosario, co-creator of La Salle's recently launched "Green Archer Radio," explored the possibility of pitting "Halikinu" against "Green Archer."

Once the other hosts agreed and radio station NU107 backed the concept, the radio showdown between blue and green was set in motion.

"We heard that 'Halikinu Radio' got a lot of complaints from listeners," Del Rosario quips. "That's why 'Green Archer Radio' is joining them to improve the level of discussions."

Halili counters by saying, "'Halikinu Radio' will happily lower its standards so it can peacefully coexist with the guys from Green Archer Radio."

Trading barbs

Aside from trading barbs, both groups will discuss the ongoing UAAP Final Four, interview players in the studio as well as promote student activities on both campuses during the live broadcasts. "Ready-2-Rumble" airs on Sept. 17 and 24, 8-10 p.m., live on NU 107.

Aside from Halili, PBA star Olsen Racela, Mhel Garrido and "Basketball TV"'s Lia Cruz complete the Halikinu crew. La Salle diehard Mr. Magoo and former Green Archer turned ABC sports analyst Jason Webb join Del Rosario to form the Green Archer gang.

"We're all good friends actually," Halili, who works with Del Rosario and Webb in covering the PBA games, says. "We've been toying with the idea of sharing a playground of sorts for quite a while now."

"The show is going to be fun for the hosts and the listeners from both sides," NU107 station manager Cris Hermosisima says. "But I think we're going to need bouncers in the studio!"

THE UNIQUE designs of the Graphic Remix Bags from Bratpack reflect Graphika Manila 2007's theme "Inspire and Be Inspired."

Art is all around us

THE ARTISTS WHO ATTENDED GRAPHIKA Manila 2007 at SM Mall of Asia's Centerstage felt art should not be confined within the walls of a gallery. Co-presented by a leading bag distributor, Bratpack, the Graphika aims to inspire and motivate participants with its diverse lineup of resource speakers from prominent local and international design firms.

Leading the pack is the quirky duo of Bru and Marcushiro of Electrolychee, who, together with other graphic design houses like WeeWillDoodle, 27+20, Collision Theory, Pilipinas Street Plan and Osomundo, transformed classic SuperBreak bags into works of art as part of Bratpack's Graphic Remix Bag line.

"We view everything as art because we enjoy looking at everyday objects visually, like the design on a jeep, the way a shanty is painted in bold, kitschy colors. Putting art in a gallery just formalizes it," said Bru.

Rock and roll

Graphic designer Paul Guadalupe said he disagreed with the idea that art could only be credible if it was in the confines of a gallery. "Art was never meant to be kept in a box, and neither in a frame, hanging in an art gallery just for it to receive some recognition. For me the more rock and roll, the better."

Guadalupe's stint as creative director for two big music publications, Pulp Magazine and MTV Ink, may explain his rock and roll roots. His online portfolio, Guadakomeda, is a testament to this progressive artist's aim to uplift the standards of local editorial design.

Photographer Steve Tirona's surreal works (a girl seductively posed atop a human tongue in a gigantic billboard on Edsa and former First Lady Imelda Marcos lounging in an opulent living room holding a dog on a leash) have earned for him quite a following. "But without graphic designers helping in layouts and post production, my ideas, my photographs will look half-baked," he said.

Although some may find it hard to accept "commercial art," the master photographer regards commercial work as a fail-safe way of getting your work out there. "Good art, no matter where it is—a magazine, a billboard or a bubble-gum wrapper—will always inspire someone."

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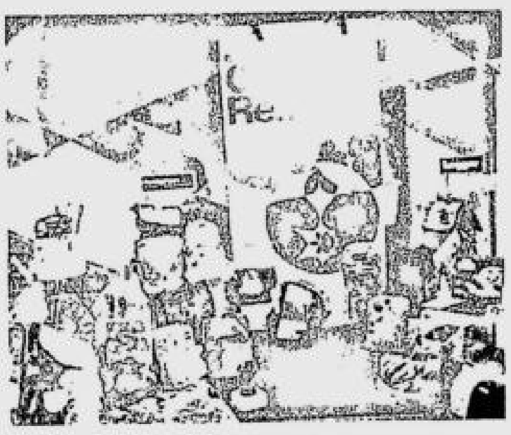
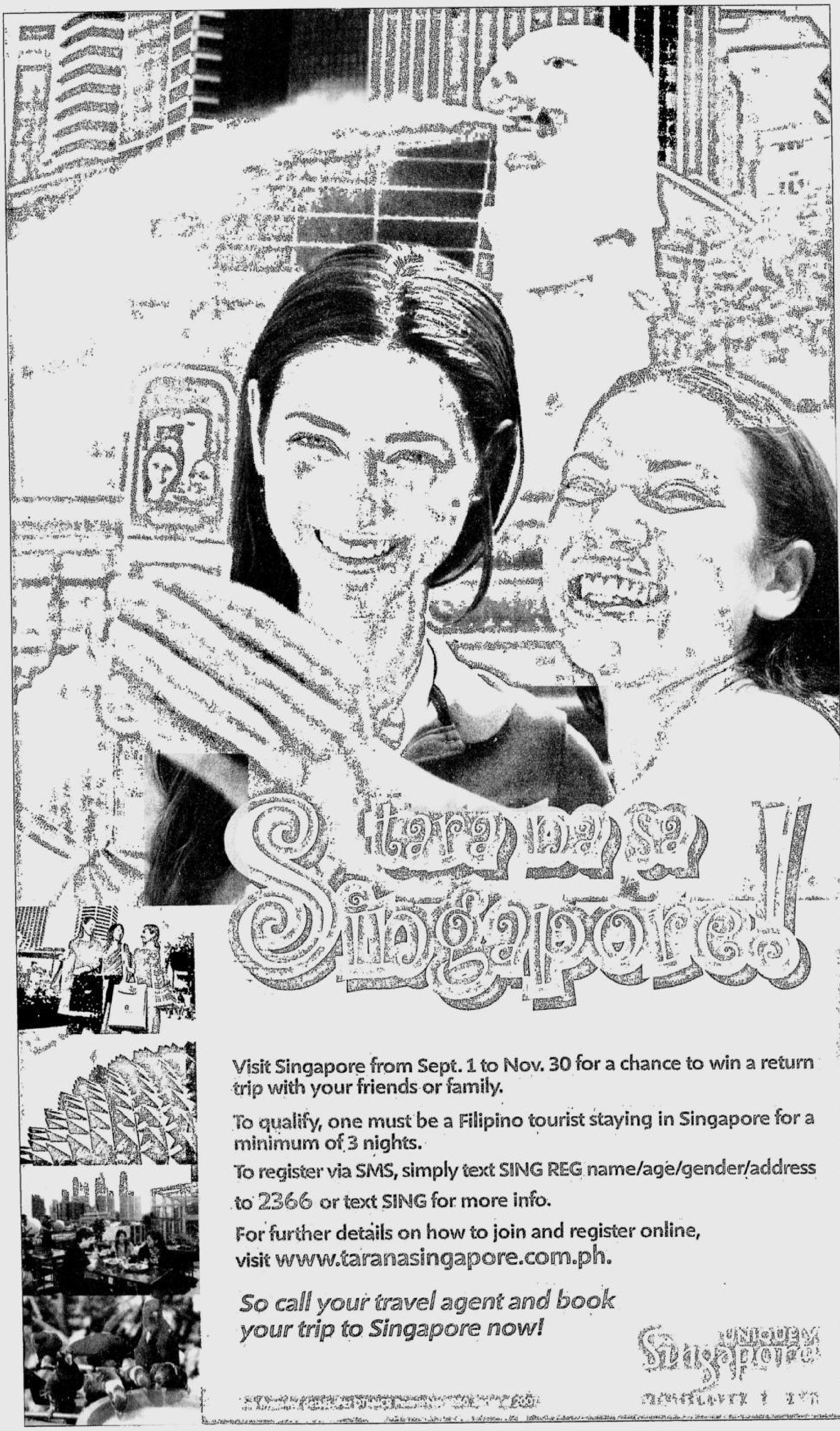


BRATPACK'S Graphic Remix Bags composed of leading bag brands Timbuk2, JanSport, Tagger and Hedgren turn SM Mall of Asia's Centerstage into a gallery.

Graphika Manila 07

THOUSANDS of artists stormed SM Mall of Asia's Centerstage for the annual Multimedia and Graphic Design Conference.



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BRAD Pitt "still processing" the news at press time. RUBEN V. NEPALES

Brad Pitt 'stunned' by Venice Best Actor win

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

By Ruben V. Nepales

TORONTO, CANADA—"I WAS STUNNED."

That was his reaction, Brad Pitt told this reporter, when he received the news that he had won the Best Actor award in the 64th Venice Film Festival for his performance in "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford."

Pitt is here for the Toronto International Film Festival, where the same film is an entry.

The actor got the call from his producing partners who were in Venice for the awards night ceremonies just before his scheduled interview with this reporter's group, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

Pitt, who won for his portrayal of America's most famous outlaw, said he was with his partner, Angelina Jolie, when the call came through.

He recounted: "My first reaction was, 'Huh?' I did not expect it. It's a great honor … to be part of the list of actors who won … I'm still processing this."

Pitt expressed elation at Cate Blanchett's Best Actress prize for portraying Bob Dylan in the bold, experimental "I'm Not There," which shared the Special Jury Prize with "La Graine et le Mulet."

He said his triumph was especially rewarding since "The Assassination," written and directed by Andrew Dominik, was plagued by production problems and delays and took three years to make.

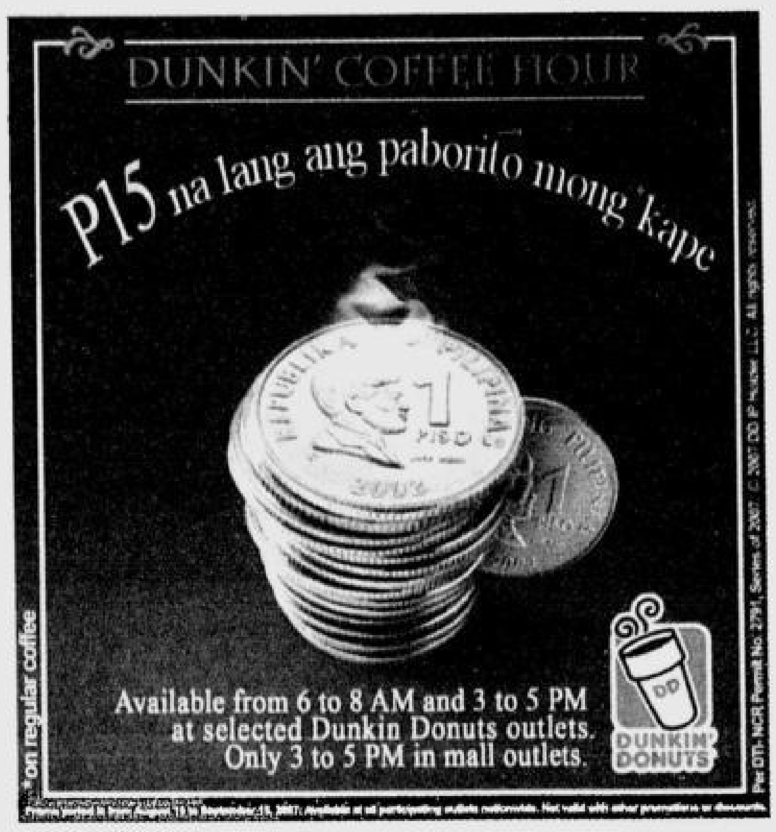
Casey Affleck, who plays Robert Ford, said of his co-star's victory: "It's a well-deserved honor for Brad. He really put himself in the hands of Andrew. He could have said, 'I can do this on my own.' But he submitted himself as a 'puppet' of Andrew in the best possible sense of the word. He gave another dimension to Jesse James."

Dominik said, "I am thrilled for Brad. Directing him and this movie was like playing cowboys and Indians but on a more sophisticated level."

Ang Lee duplicated his Venice triumph two years ago for "Brokeback Mountain." The Chinese director's "Lust, Caution" won the Golden Lion top prize award.

The Philippines' Lav Diaz won the Special Mention Prize in the Horizons (Orizzonti) Documentary section of the festival for his nine-hour entry, "Kagadanan sa Banwaan ning mga Engkanto (Death in the Land of the Encantos)."

Brian De Palma was declared Best Director for "Redacted," a drama on the Iraq conflict.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1408 4:20/9:40	UNDERDOG 1:40/3:40/5:40/7:40/9:40	THE BRAVE ONE 1:40/4:20/7:00/10:00	
FOSTER CHILD 2:35/4:55/7:15/9:40	DISTURBIA 12:50/3:05/5:20/7:35/9:50	A LOVE STORY 1:40/7:00	THE BRAVE ONE 1:00/3:40/6:20/9:00

ALIMALL CINEMAS DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 12:45/3:15/5:45/8:15	ROUGE ASSASSIN 12:10 R4/1:30/3:50/6:10/8:30	THE BRAVE ONE 12:00/2:40/5:20/8:00

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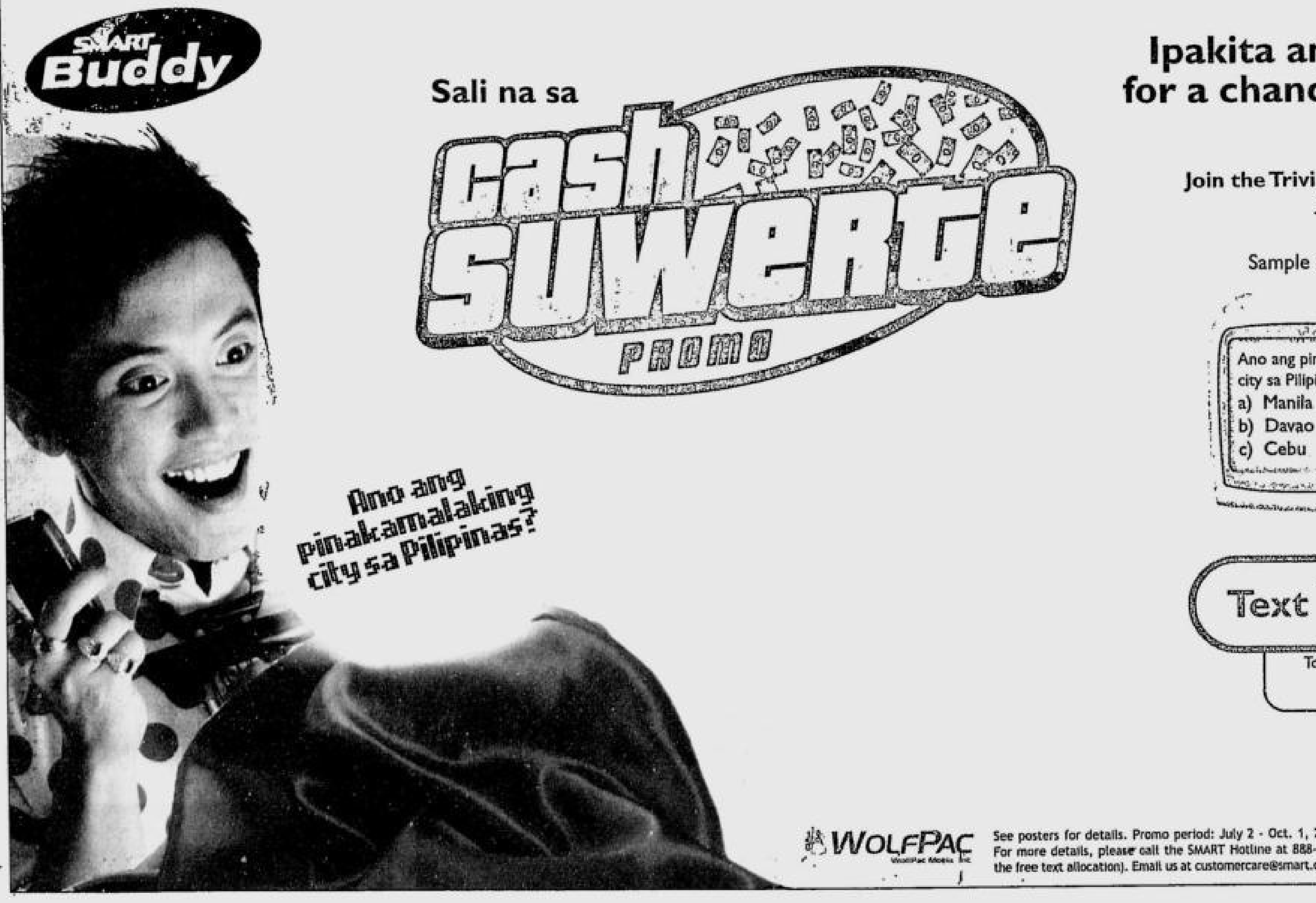
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SMART THE POWER TO LEAD

Be an Inquirer.

OPENING TODAY

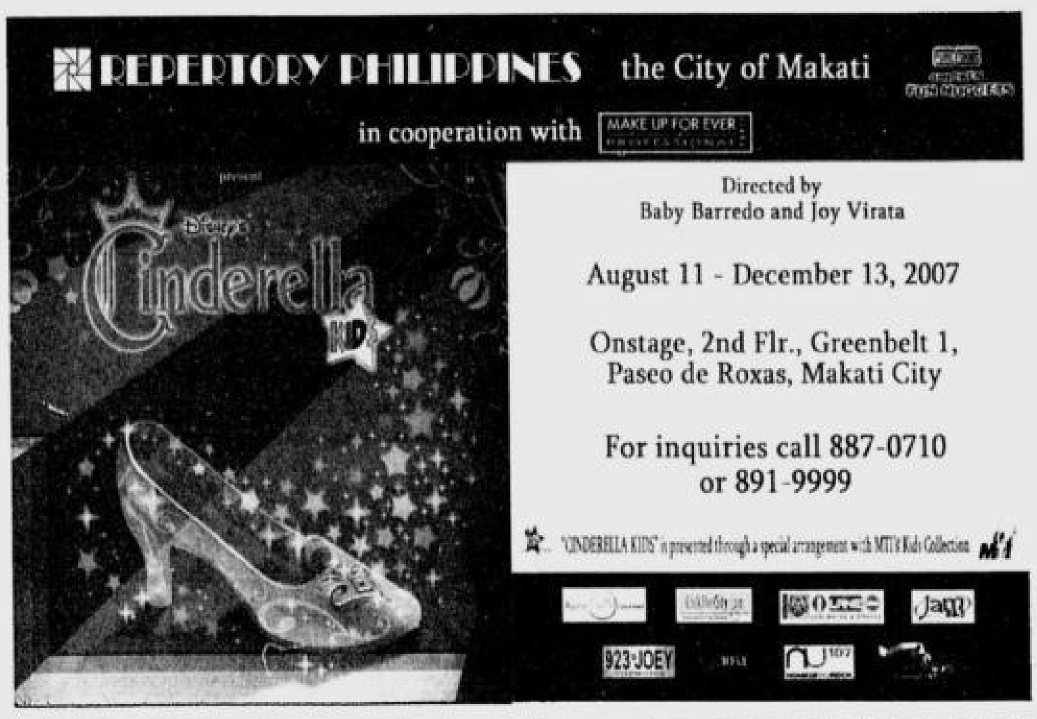
Foster Child

Stars Cherry Pie Picache, Eugene Domingo, Dan Alvaro, Jiro Manio

Directed by Dante Mendoza

The country's entry to this year's Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival tells the story of a slum-dweller (Picache) who takes care of abandoned children for a government stipend of P1,500 a month. Jean-Luc Douin of Le Monde hails the director, "who depicts a woman's sacrifices, with the virtuosity of a documentarian." Nestor U. Torre of the INQUIRER says the film is "emotionally stirring … significant and unhysterical."

OPENING/ E3



REPERTORY PHILIPPINES the City of Makati
in cooperation with MAKE UP FOR EVER PROFESSIONAL
present
Disney's Cinderella Kids
Directed by
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August 11 - December 13, 2007
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EXCLUSIVE GUARANTEED VIEWING PLEASURE
OPENS SEPTEMBER 19
AT GLORIETTA 4
and GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
"A superbly crafted psychological thriller."
"A brilliant house-horror tale with Hitchcockean flair."
Duane Byrge, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
Sam Rockwell Vera Farmiga
joshua
Not all children are innocent.
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)
glorietta GREENBELT

THIS WEDNESDAY
at INDIESINE

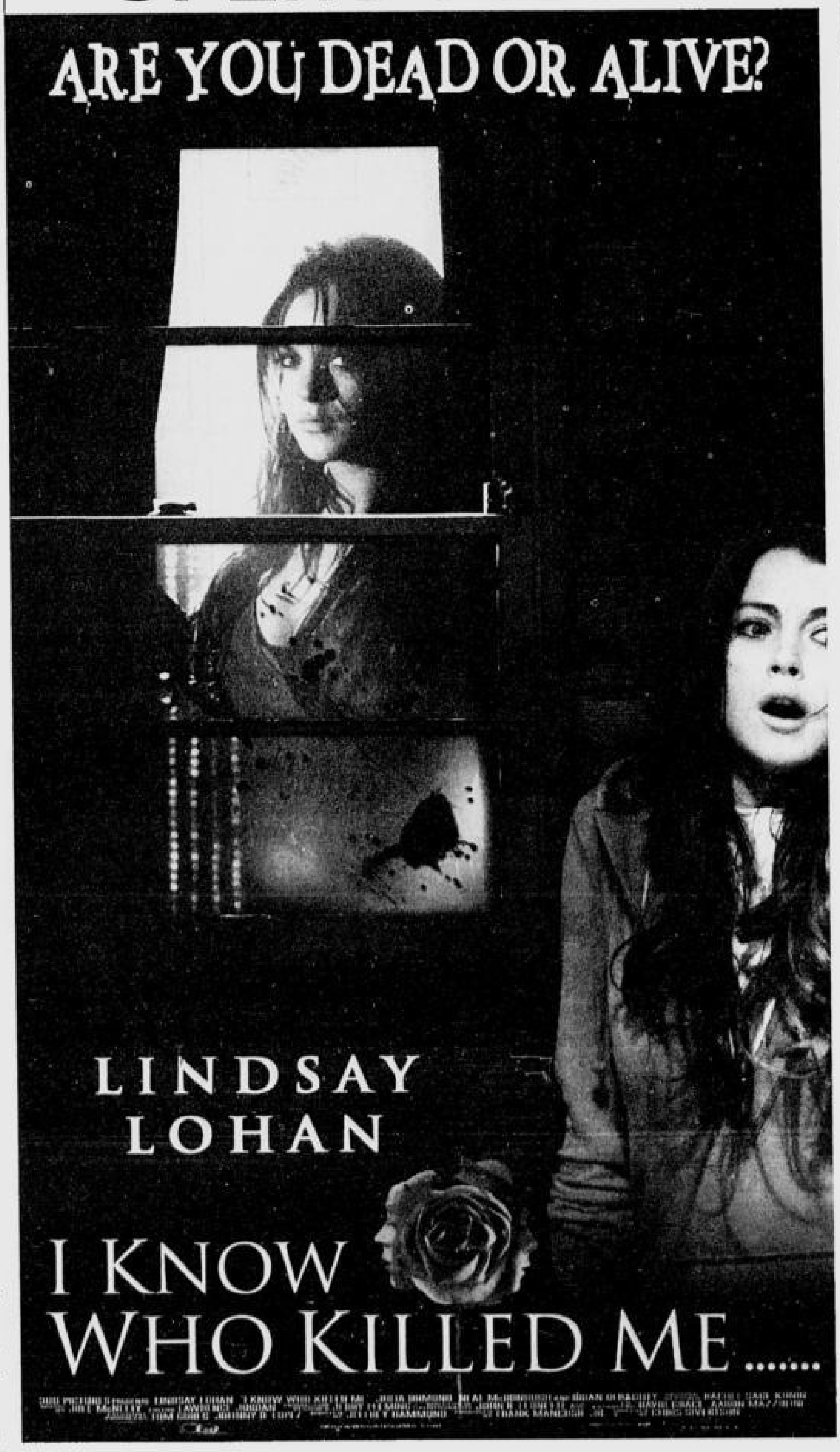
Sometime in the 70's, in a small town in Negros, the post office simply stops its operations. No one knew about this except for the postman and his caretaker. When Nor, finds out about this secret, he finds an opportunity to sway to the dance of love when he assumes the identity of another man. Nor reads the letters hidden in an old warehouse and takes over the pen of Karen's husband who was working in Saigon. Soon after, a correspondence between Nor and Karen takes place. And Nor finds himself truly falling in love.

showing on
SEPTEMBER 12 to 20
Robinsons Movieworld
Galleria

IndieSine

Ligaw Liham

OPENS TODAY



ARE YOU DEAD OR ALIVE?
LINDSAY LOHAN
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME……

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 (DOLBY)	UNDERDOG
2 (DOLBY)	THE BRAVE ONE
3 (DOLBY)	NANCY DREW
4 (DOLBY)	ROGUE ASSASIN
PREMIERE	
(DOLBY)	DISTURBIA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	UNDERDOG
2	ROGUE ASSASIN
3	I KNOW WHO KILL ME
4	THE BRAVE ONE

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268150

3	UNDERDOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	I KNOW WHO KILL ME
5	PLEASE CALL

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433954

1	UNDERDOG
2	ROGUE ASSASIN
3	THE BRAVE ONE
4	I KNOW WHO KILL ME

THEATRES

1	THE INVASION
2	SKINWALKERS
3	PLEASE CALL

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660 5271

1	THE INVASION
2	UNDERDOG
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDDS)	1408
2 (SDDS)	EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 (DTS)	I KNOW WHO KILL ME
4 GOLD (DTS)	UNDERDOG
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	ROGUE ASSASIN
6 GOLD (SDDS)	UNDERDOG
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE BRAVE ONE
8 (SDDS)	MY KUYAS WEDDING
9	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM / DISTURBIA
10	RUSH HOUR - 3 / SKINWALKERS

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	PLEASE CALL
2 (DOLBY)	
3 (DOLBY)	
4 (DOLBY)	

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	RESERVED
4	THE BRBRAVE ONE
5	UNDERDOG

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	CHOPSUEY
2	THE INVASION
3	PLEASE CALL
4	

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	UNDERDOG
2	ROGUE ASSASIN
3	I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1	UNDERDOG
2	THE INVASION

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5003 to 03

1 (DOLBY)	UNDERDOG
2	ROGUE ASSASIN
3 (DTS)	SIGNOS
4	HAIRSPRAY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7907

1	PLEASE CALL
2	

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	UNDERDOG
2 (DOLBY)	THE BRBRAVE ONE
3 (DOLBY)	ROGUE ASSASIN
4 (DOLBY)	DISTURBIA

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	THE BRBRAVE ONE
2 (DTS)	THE INVASION
3 (DOLBY)	UNDERDOG
4	

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1	RESERVED
2 (THX)	RESERVED
3 (DTS)	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SIGNOS
2	PLANET TERROR
3 (DOLBY)	SINKING JAPAN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	FRACTURE
2	SIGNOS
3 (DOLBY)	SINKING JAPAN
4 (DTS)	THREE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	LICENSE TO WED / THE INVASION
2	UNDERDOG
3 (DOLBY)	RISE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1	THE INVASION
2	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1	PLEASE CALL
2	

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	PLEASE CALL
2	
3	
4 (DTS)	

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE INVASION
2	PLEASE CALL
3 (DTS)	THE BRAVE ONE
4	PLEASE CALL
5	UNDERDOG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DON'T LOOK BACK
2	LAST LEGION
3	THE INVASION
4	UNDERDOG

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	PLEASE CALL
2	

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Possible tie looms in the Gawad Urian

By Lito B. Zulueta

WILL THE MANUNURI NG PElikulang Pilipino, the society of film critics behind the Gawad Urian, mark its 30th year with another of its proverbial ties that have characterized the best acting categories through the years?

A tie in the Urian has become something of an industry joke. "The Manunuris can't make up their minds!" an entertainment writer once said about the propensity of the Urian to choose winners in deadlock fashion.

But no one has really seriously disputed with the critics on

POSSIBLE/ E6

SHANG CINEPLEX
① UNDERDOG MTRCB GP 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
③ NANCY DREW MTRCB GP 12:50, 3.00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
② THE BRAVE ONE MTRCB. R-13 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
④ ROGUE ASSASSIN MTRCB. R-13 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
PREMIERE THEATRE DISTURBIA (PG-13) 12:20, 2 45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
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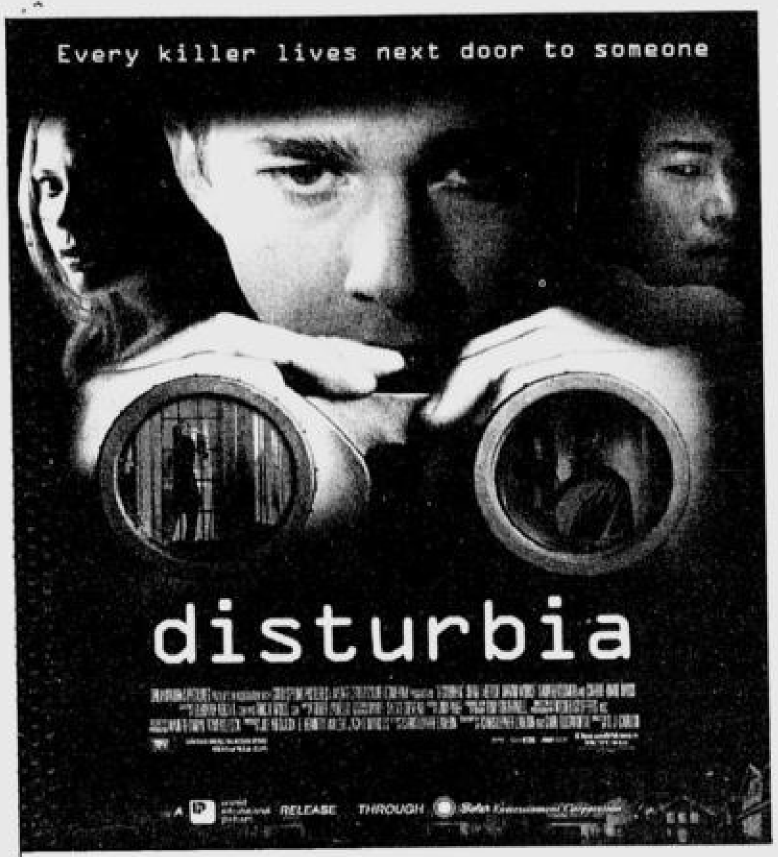
Shangri-La Plaza


Every killer lives next door to someone
disturbia
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GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
THE BRAVE ONE 2:40, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:05 PG-13
DISTURBIA 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
UNDERDOG 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 10:55 G
WAR: ROGUE ASSASSIN 12:45, 3:05, 5:35, 8.05, 10:40 PG-13

ADAMSANDLER
KEVINJAMES
Chuck has just found the perfect... too bad he's agreed to marry his best friend
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
IN THEATERS SEPTEMBER 19

MTRCB PG-13
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JIRO MANIO ALWYN UYTINGCO KIER SEGUNDO
Foster Child
Directed by BRILLANTE MENDOZA
A

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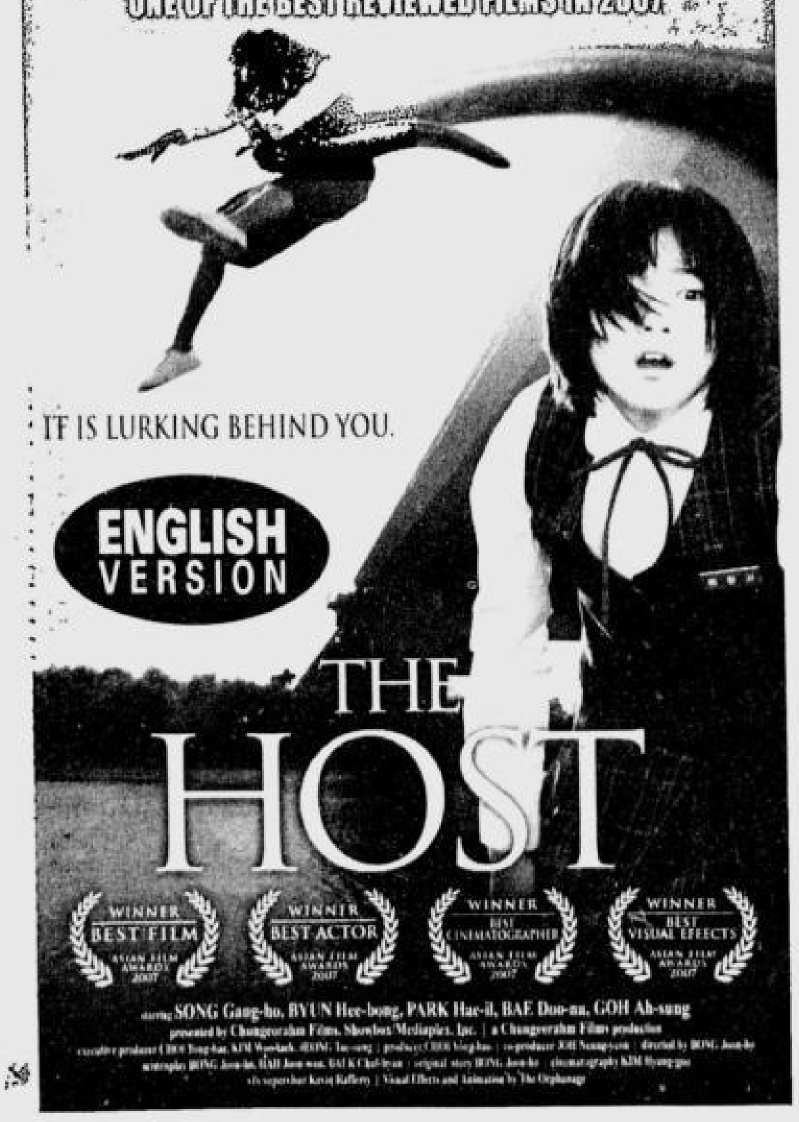
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WINNER BEST VISUAL EFFECTS ASIAN FILM AWARDS 2007
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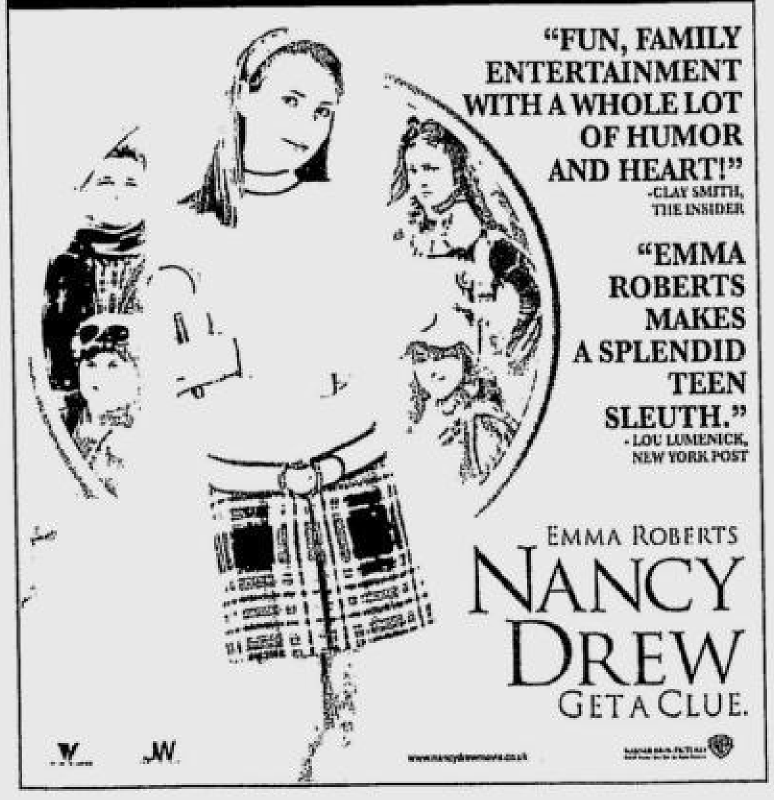
- PHIL BOATWRIGHT, THE MOVIE REPORTER


"FUN, FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT WITH A WHOLE LOT OF HUMOR AND HEART!"
-CLAY SMITH, THE INSIDER
"EMMA ROBERTS MAKES A SPLENDID TEEN SLEUTH."
- LOU LUMENICK, NEW YORK POST
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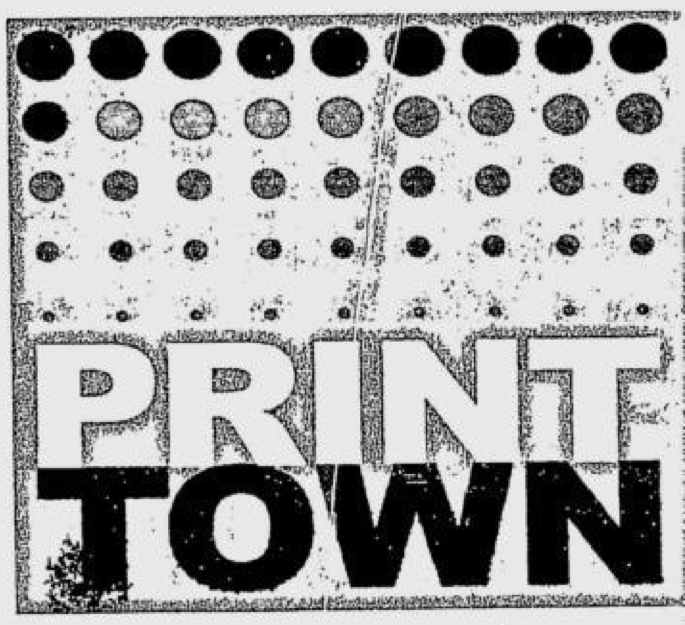


www.printtown.ph

OPENING TODAY

From page E2

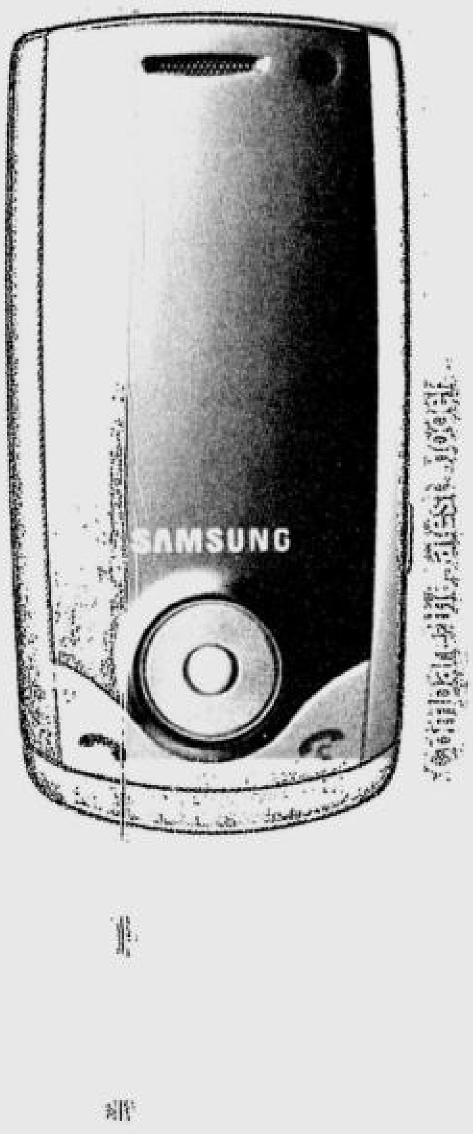
Ligaw Liham

Stars Karylle, John Gilbert Arceo, George Macainan,
Michael Lee

Directed by Jay Abello, Manny Montelibano

A Cinemalaya entry this year, this period drama dissects the
ruption caused in a small Negros town when the post office c
shop. Lito Zulueta of the INQUIRER opines that the film's "recre
of the past [is] ... effective and astounding." Nestor U. Torr
scribes it as "a fey, deft and effervescent tale of how letters ...
the ebb and flow of people's lives." Exclusively at IndieSine R
sons Galleria.

OPENI



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Lower G/F, Robinsons Galleria Mall,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
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SAMSUNG

OPENING TODAY

From page E3

The Brave One

Stars Jodie Foster, Terrence Howard, Naveen Andrews, Mary Steenburgen

Directed by Neil Jordan

It is often described as a female "Death Wish" for the post-Sept. 11 era. After being attacked, a radio jock (Foster) takes the law into her own hands. Justin Chang of Variety commends Foster for delivering a performance of "astonishing physical and psychological credibility." Michael Rechtshaffen of The Hollywood Reporter thinks "it's flawed but disturbing." Josh Tyler of Cinemablend.com calls it "carefully crafted."

Underdog

With the voices of Jason Lee, Jim Belushi, Amy Adams, Brad Garrett

Directed by Frederick Du Chau

A mad scientist turns an ordinary police dog into a canine with superpowers. Jack Matthews of New York Daily News concedes that it's "made for the Saturday morning TV crowd." Sam Adams of Los Angeles Times rants: "The movie's sloppiness is galling." Jeannette Catsoulis of New York Times agrees, putting it to task for its "witless script ... [this flick] couldn't sell Frisbees at a dog park."

OPENING/ E5

RUSHES

The Edu-Vi chance dance, and

By the Inquirer/
Inquirer.net Entertainment S

EDU MANZANO, HOT TV
show host, told Rushes how
up dancing with Ate Vi on
"Deal or No Deal" recently: "I was taping for 'Pilipinas: Game KNB?' when someone asked me to drop by the set of 'Deal.' I said no, Vi deserved to have that moment all to herself. Then Vi was requested to dance, and she said she would—if the Banker stepped out and danced with her. Guess what, Banker said yes! The EP went into panic mode. Banker is not 'sup
show himself. *Wala na*, I we
'save' the situation. *Kuriwan*
was coming down, ther
walked into the set."

However it happened, t
was fun. It diverted our att
tion from Kris Aquino, whic
not an easy thing to do, by
measure.

* * *

Top of the talk shows

- Marian Rivera, on the
creasing number of her sui
since starring in "Marimar":

"Bago pa lang sila manlig
sinasabi ko na i-e-entertain
kayo pero hindi ko masu-s
na sasagutin kita, gusto k
Basta ngayon, priority ko,
baho. Kung gusto mo ak
makilala, gusto mo akong m
ing kaibigan, okey sa c
'yun."

- Bianca King, on her relat
ship with Hale vocalist Cha
Lui Pio:

"Siguro dapat manggalin
amin 'yun sa takdang panah
Pero sa ngayon, di po
tamang sabihin sa publiko
pareho kaming may mga s
ing career na pinangang
*gaan namin at dine-*develo
namin." (That's a yes-we-
right?)

- Joey de Leon, asked i
would forgive Willie R
lame:

"Hindi sila tumupad sa
hingi ko eh ... Hiniling k
may dalawa ring nakatayo
na dalawang co-hosts *na*
*iyak din habang nagso-*sorry
sa akin. Kaya ako naman
*magso-*sorry. Sorry, *hindi*
matatanggap ang sorry
(Strangely enough, "Wowo
fans and the viewing publ
general seem to have put
behind them.)

Yilmaz's parting 'gift'

- Annabelle Rama on a
membrance" (souvenir *sig*
that Yilmaz Bektas gave
Gutierrez before leaving
country last month:

"Umalis na siya Ruffa,
binigay sa iyong ano si Yi
... na hindi mo makakal
tan. Kung papatawarin m
siya, luka-luka ka na Ruffa
ga. Maniwala ka sa akin.
bumalik siya dito at enter
in mo pa siya, Ruffa. Ewa
*su-*surrender *na ako sa*
'Day." (Shaks, ano kaya 'y
blackeye, Bvlgari watch, b
All of the above?)

Handling a crisis

- John Prats relates ho
got the news that sister Ca
was pregnant:

"*Galing ako sa* rehears
ASAP. My dad, *nasa* pl
mukhang problemado.
niya [sa akin], 'Stay there
gonna talk to you.' So *nan*
lang ako. For 30 mi
nakaupo lang ako. Tapos
niya, 'Halika, halika.' Ki
han na ako. Sabi niya, 'You
ter is pregnant.' *Ang galin*
way my dad handled it. B
I could react, *sabi niya*
'Tanggapin natin.' We we
sa room ni Cam that ni
didn't say anything. I
hugged her and told her, '
here for you.' *Umiya*
siya—pati kami."

- John describes the fat
Camille's child, Anthony
sangan:

"*Responsable, Napak*
Family man." (And is he
ing an earring?)

- John's message to di
Paul Soriano, Camille's f
boyfriend, whose reply-
tial queries if he had fa
the child was, "No comm

"*Unang-una wala ka d*
usapang ito. Pangalaw
comment'? Ang daming

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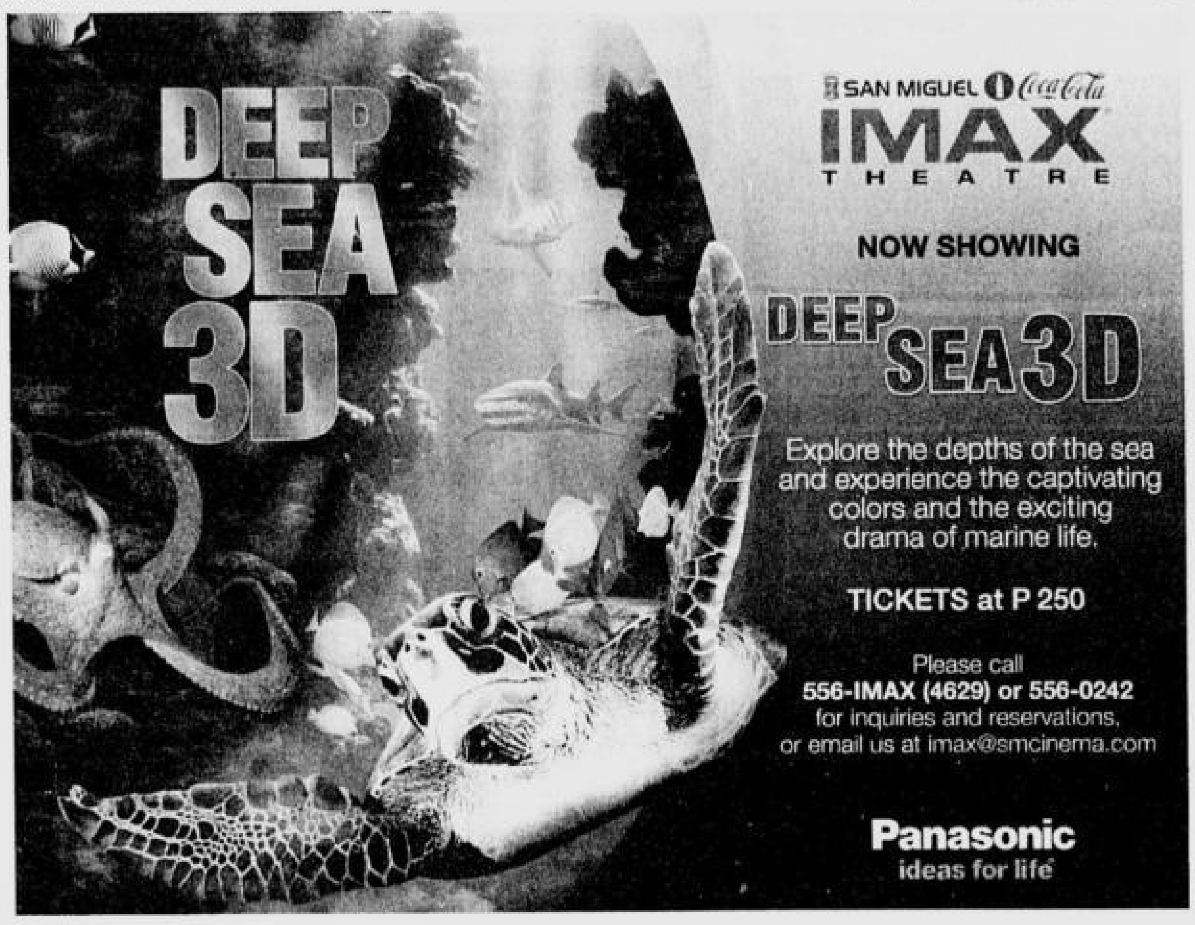

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2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 1408
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
6 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
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CENTERSTAGE
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THE BRAVE ONE
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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 UNDERDOG
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 ROGUE ASSISSIN
5 FOSTER CHILD
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
ANINO NG SETYEMBRE/A LOVE STORY
8
9 RESERVED
10 RESERVED
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 UNDERDOG
6 FOSTER CHILD
7 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
8 1408
9 A LOVE STORY
10 INVASION
11 SKINWALKERS
12 EVAN ALMIGHTY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 1408
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 THE BRAVE ONE
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 A LOVE STORY
9 SKINWALKERS
10 RUSH HOUR 3/DAYWATCH
11 UNDERDOG
12 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 UNDERDOG
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
5 1408
6 SKINWALKERS
7 DISTURBIA
8 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
9 A LOVE STORY
10 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 1408
4 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
5 THE BRAVE ONE
6 UNDERDOG

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 THE BRAVE ONE
5 A LOVE STORY
6 1408
7 SKINWALKERS
8 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
9 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 NANCY DREW
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
4 1408
5 UNDERDOG
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 GANDHI, MY FATHER
8 FOSTER CHILD
9 RUSH HOUR 3
10 A LOVE STORY
11 DISTURBIA
12 SKINWALKERS

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 DAYWATCH
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 UNDERDOG

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 UNDERDOG
4 DISTURBIA

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 DAYWATCH
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 UNDERDOG

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 1408
2 SKINWALKERS
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 THE BRAVE ONE
5 UNDERDOG
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
7 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
8 A LOVE STORY

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 1408
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 DISTURBIA

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 1408
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3 UNDERDOG
4 DISTURBIA

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1 PLANET TERROR
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3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 INVASION

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 UNDERDOG
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
4 FOSTER CHILD
5 A LOVE STORY
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

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2 INVASION
3 UNDERDOG
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1 UNDERDOG
2 A LOVE STORY
3 INVASION
4 RUSH HOUR 3

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2 INVASION
3 UNDERDOG
4 RUSH HOUR 3

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2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 THE BRAVE ONE

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3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

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3 A LOVE STORY
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5 RISE
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN

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3 INVASION
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

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3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 UNDERDOG
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6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 RESERVED
8 THE LAST LEGION

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2 BUG
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 UNDERDOG
5 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
6 FOSTER CHILD
7 A LOVE STORY
8 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 UNDERDOG
2 INVASION
3 SINKING OF JAPAN
4 1408

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wo gentlemen in Camille Prats' life

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ing *no'n. Ako na ang nagsasabi,* 'no' *talaga. Huwag ka na lang makisali.*"

- Camille Prats, if she had any feelings of guilt:

"*Meron, siyempre. Kasi parang may* guilt *kasi kumbaga* I don't want them to go through that. *'Yung parang siyempre 'yung sakit* and all that ..." (The girl is stressed; what did you expect?)

- Camille on revealing her four-month pregnancy to the public:

"'*Wala naman akong dapat ikahiya*. It's a wonderful gift [from] God. *At pangalawa*, I think I owe the public ... the truth about my life. It's a blessing and I'm very proud of it and I don't regret anything."

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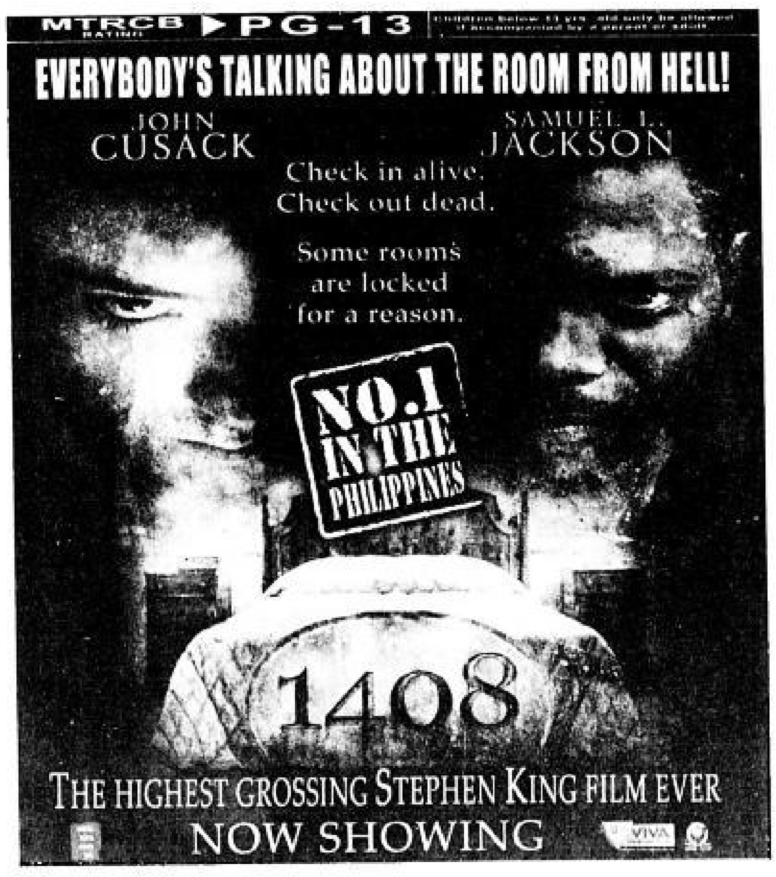
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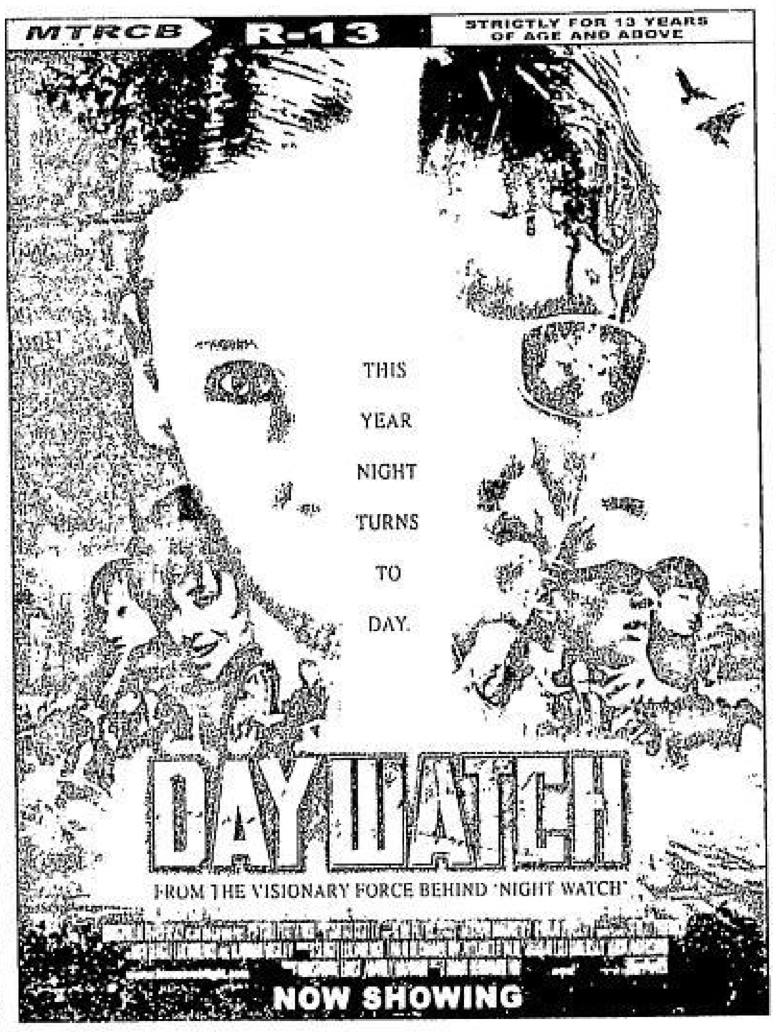
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CINEMA 5 THE BRAVE ONE
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September 15, 2007	Rico J. w. Rufla Mae	8.00 PM
September 22, 2007	Jett Pangan, Michael De Mesa, Ricky Davao	8.00 PM
September 29, 2007	Sugarfree	8.00 PM
October 08 & 09 2007	"Alamat" Stageplay	[illegible]

TLACINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Sept 21, 28 2007	Drag - Ons	10.00 PM
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SAMSUNG

OPENING TODAY

From page E4

I Know Who Killed Me

Stars Lindsay Lohan, Julia Ormond, Neal McDonough, Brian Geraghty

Directed by Chris Sivertson

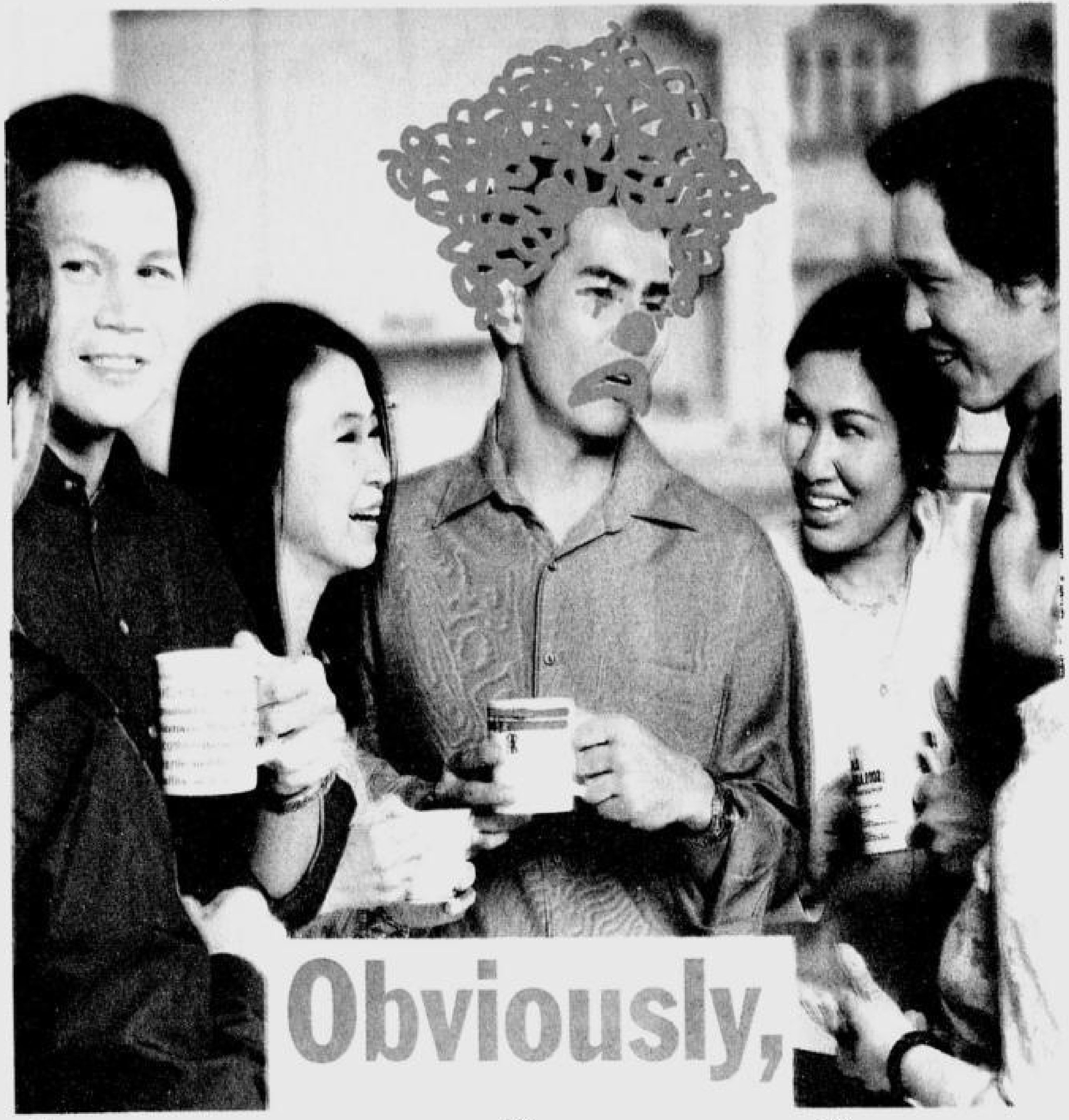
In this thriller, a dainty coed (Lohan) is kidnapped and molested. When she wakes up at the hospital, she tells people that she's an exotic dancer. Jan Stuart of Newsday rants: "A grotesquely hilarious horror tale that promises unspeakable tortures to its star and audience alike." Owen Gleiberman of Entertainment Weekly dismisses it as a "grisly piece of torture porn." Jim Ridley of LA Weekly sees it as "a surreal, disjointed mood piece."

Rogue Assassin

Stars Jet Li, Jason Statham, Nadine Velasquez, Kane Kosugi

Directed by Philip G. Atwell

Originally titled "War" in the US, this action flick pits a Chinese hitman with an FBI agent obsessed with revenge. Wesley Morris of Boston Globe complains that the movie "barely utilizes either man's strengths ... [it's] a losing battle." Peter Hartlaub of San Francisco Chronicle concurs: "[It] lacks action." Michael Ferraro of Film Threat states: "The plot goes from understandable to confusing."



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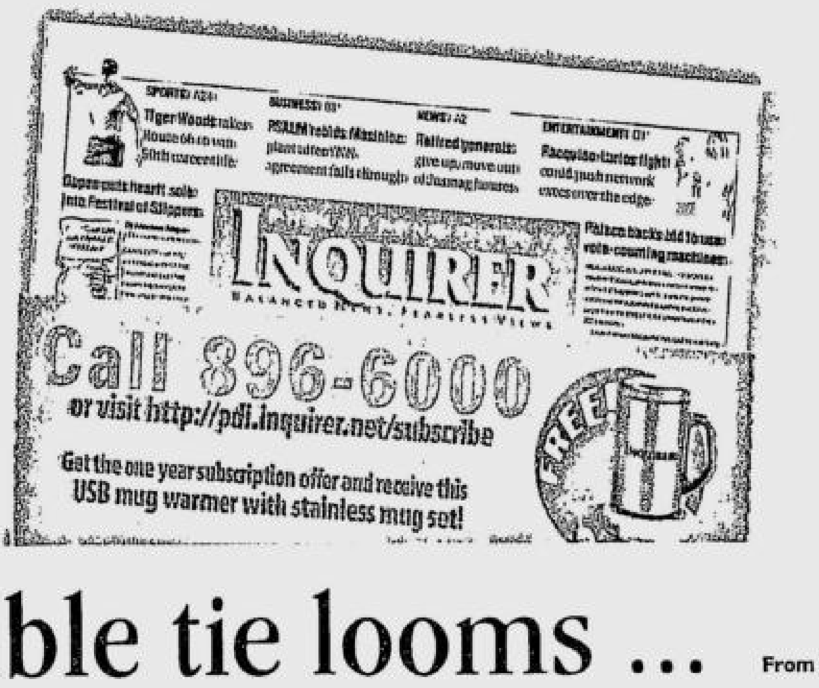

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Possible tie looms ...

From page E3

their idiosyncratic decisions, because the Urian is considered the most credible award-giving body in the entertainment industry.

The last tie in the Best Actress category happened in 2001, when Assunta de Rossi and Rosanna Roces won the award for "Hubog" and "La Vida Rosa," respectively.

Before that, the award had witnessed a tie in 1996 when Sharon Cuneta and Nora Aunor shared the trophy for "Madrasta" and "Bakit May Kahapon Pa?", and in 1995 when Aunor and Helen Gamboa won for "The Flor Contemplacion Story" and "Bagong Bayani—OCW." The last two movies were about the same story—the execution of Contemplacion in Singapore.

'Most-tied' Best Actress

Aunor appears to be the "most tied" Best Actress in Urian history. She tied with her contemporary and biggest rival, Vilma Santos, in 1989, when she won the award for "Bilangin ang Bituin sa Langit," and Santos for "Pahiram ng Isang Umaga."

Tight race

But the first Urian tie was scored in 1985 when Gina Alajar and Nida Blanca shared the award for "Kapit sa Patalim/Bayan Ko" and "Miguelito, Ang Batang Rebelde," both films incidentally directed by Lino Brocka.

So will there be a tie again this year when the Manunuri marks its 30th year?

All that the film critics could say is that the race has been tight. The Best Actress nominees are Judy Ann Santos ("Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo"), Maricel Soriano ("Inang Laya"), Cherrie Pie Picache ("Kaleldo"), Angel Aquino ("Kaleldo"), Gina Pareño ("Kubrador"), Jonalyn Ablong ("Manoro"), Mylene Dizon ("Rome and Juliet") and Andrea del Rosario ("Rome and Juliet").

Reports say that the critics are particularly hard-pressed to choose between Pareño, Soriano and Picache.

The only tie to have taken place outside of the Best Actress race was in the Best Screenplay award in 2001, when Lav Diaz and Armando Lao shared the trophy for "Batang Westside" and "La Vida Rosa," respectively.

Notable year

2001 was notable. It was when the Manunuri chose to memorialize its 25th year by scoring twin ties in the Best Screenplay and Best Actress awards (Assunta de Rossi and Rosanna Roces).

Will it celebrate its 30th anniversary with more of the same?

The 30th Gawad Urian unfolds on Sept. 13, 7 p.m., at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater of the Ateneo de Manila University. Mounted by APT Productions, the ceremonies will be broadcast on RPN 9.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

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GALLERIA

1 THE BRAVE ONE • THX
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 indieSine: LIGAW LIHAM
4 UNDERDOG
5 SKINWALKERS
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
7 DISTURBIA
8 A LOVE STORY
NANCY DREW
9 EVAN ALMIGHTY
FOSTER CHILD
10 1408

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2 1408
FOSTER CHILD
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3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 DAYWATCH
5 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
6 1408
7 DISTURBIA
8 A LOVE STORY
RUSH HOUR 3

NOVALICHES

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 DAYWATCH

PIONEER

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2 UNDERDOG
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

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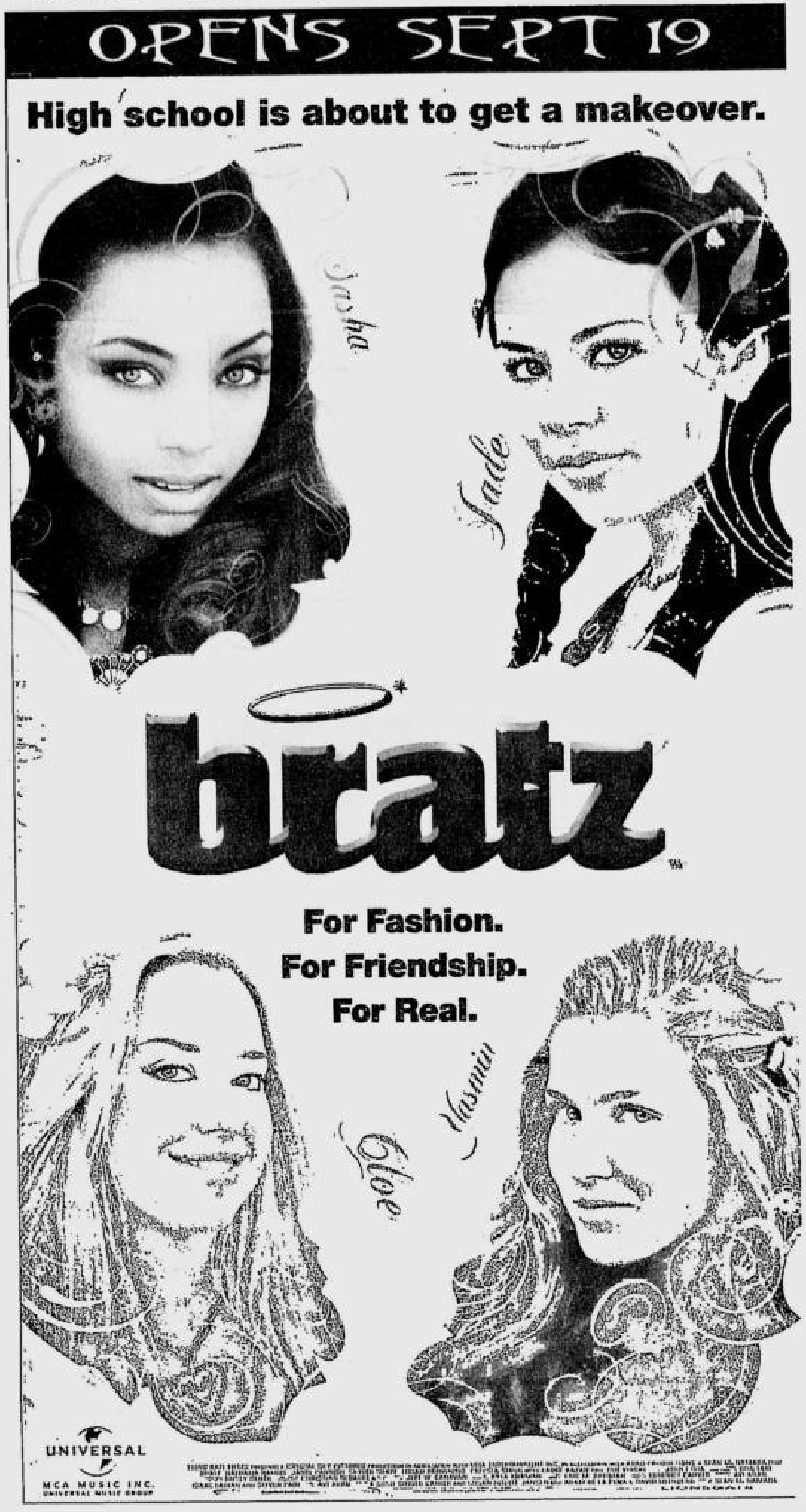
4 THE INVASION
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 SIGNOS

CHEER FACTOR

LAS VEGAS—Somewhere, Kevin Federline is laughing. Britney Spears delivered what could be the most talked about performance of the MTV Video Music Awards—for all the wrong reasons. She looked bleary and unprepared, and appeared to have forgotten the art of dance and lip-synching. Worst, she was out of shape. *AP*



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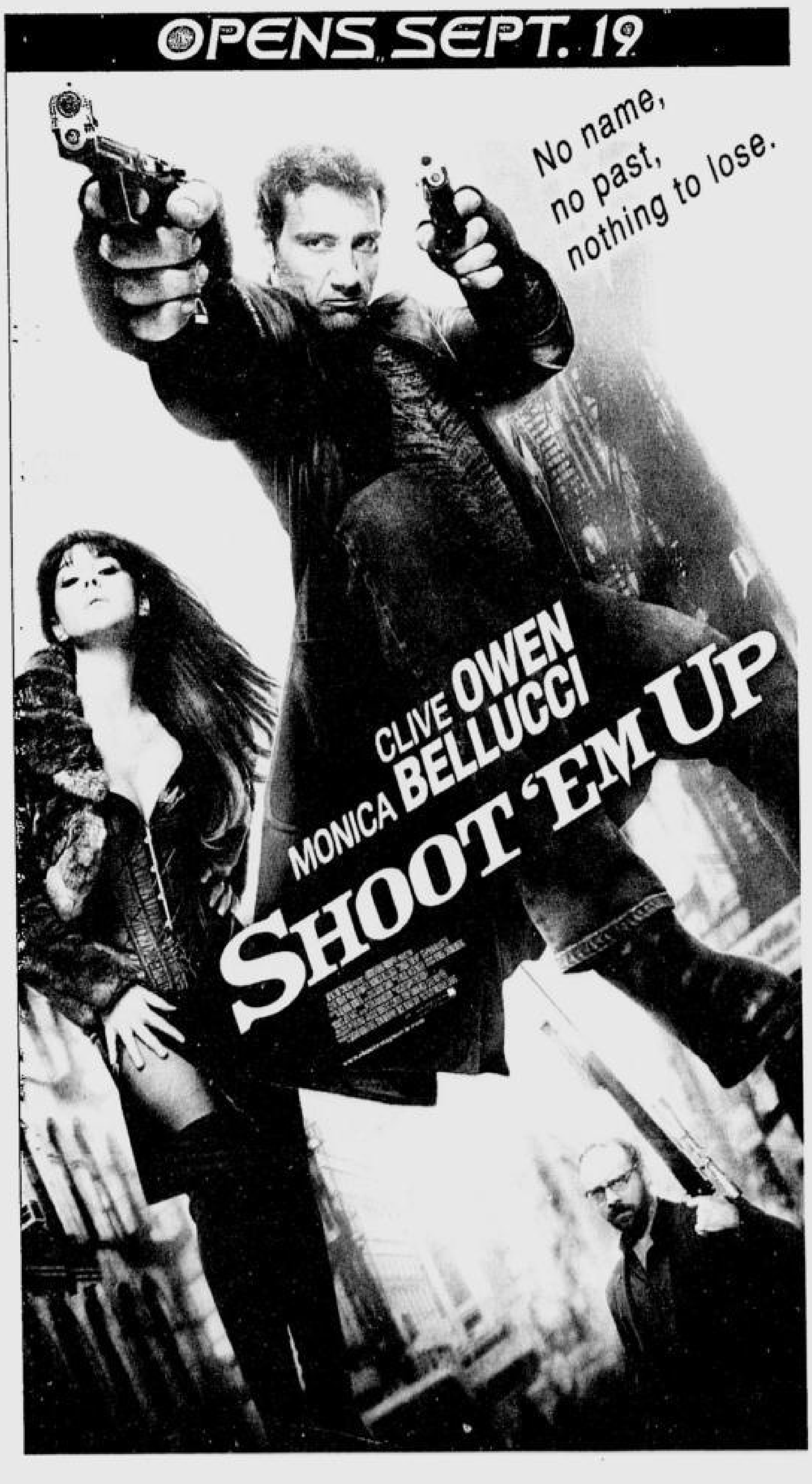


Luis Manzano stops talking about Angel

From page E8

Page E4.)

It's only natural that John feels protective about Camille. When I heard about John's comment, *"Iniwan lang ni Paul sa ere si Camille,"* I could not help but remember when **Say Alonzo** told me that John kind of left her, too, and gave her the *"deadma"* treatment for sometime. History has an uncanny way of repeating itself, huh? Past is past but some of its scars last.

A funny death scene

John Arcilla tried to lighten the mood during the taping of a dramatic scene in "Magpakailanman." He was lying in a coffin while **Rainier Castillo** and my son **IC** were crying as they looked at him.

When the camera was not focused on John, he made funny faces to distract Rainier and IC. They wanted to get the scene over and done with, so both of them just ignored John's antics. But after that coffin scene, they all could have died laughing!

Childish jousting

Joey de Leon's catchy one-liner to **Willie Revillame**, "Explain before you complain!" will soon be on T-shirts, mugs, caps, etc. Talk about finding gold in the ruins.

Just a friendly suggestion: While they're at it, why don't they also sell merchandise emblazoned with these words: Restrain after you drain.

Haven't we had enough of that childish on-air jousting? "Explain," "complain," it's all getting to sound like a boring refrain. It's one thing for a show to have many ads and quite another thing to air the hosts' lamentations, ad infinitum.

Rated R

Catch Total Entertainer **Rico J. Puno** with **Ruffa Mae Quinto** on Sept. 15, 8 p.m. at Music Museum, Greenhills in "Nineteen-18-Nine," a fund-raising concert for the benefit of Makatao Foundation. Organized by **Yoyah Quizan**'s EVENTually-Events & Promotions, it's surely gonna be a rated R evening with Rico and Ruffa Mae. R for riotous and rib-tickling!

Cosmo bash

Cosmopolitan Magazine's Bachelor bash just keeps getting hotter each year. Pandemomium broke loose as the 69 gorgeous centerfolds led by **Dingdong Dantes** strutted their stuff at the NBC tent, which had been converted into a wild island. If you missed the glorious event, you can still fantasize about the bachelors by grabbing a copy of Cosmo's explosive September issue. Surely, that was one bash where everyone behaved unabashedly.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

ANGEL Locsin

Luis Manzano stops talking about Angel Locsin

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

LUIS MANZANO WOULD NOW rather keep to himself things regarding **Angel Locsin**. He has been unfairly accused by some quarters of using Angel for publicity purposes. Luis just shrugs off the nasty talk.

Being the son of **Vilma Santos** and **Edu Manzano** remains to be his best credential although he has already carved a name of his own. So he doesn't need to resort to any form of gimmickry.

He says, "For a change, I won't be vocal about Angel. What's important is that between us there's no problem. We understand each other well."

Who are the other girls he's smitten with aside from Angel? "When I court a girl, *isa-isa lang. Hindi* smorgasboard (laughs)."

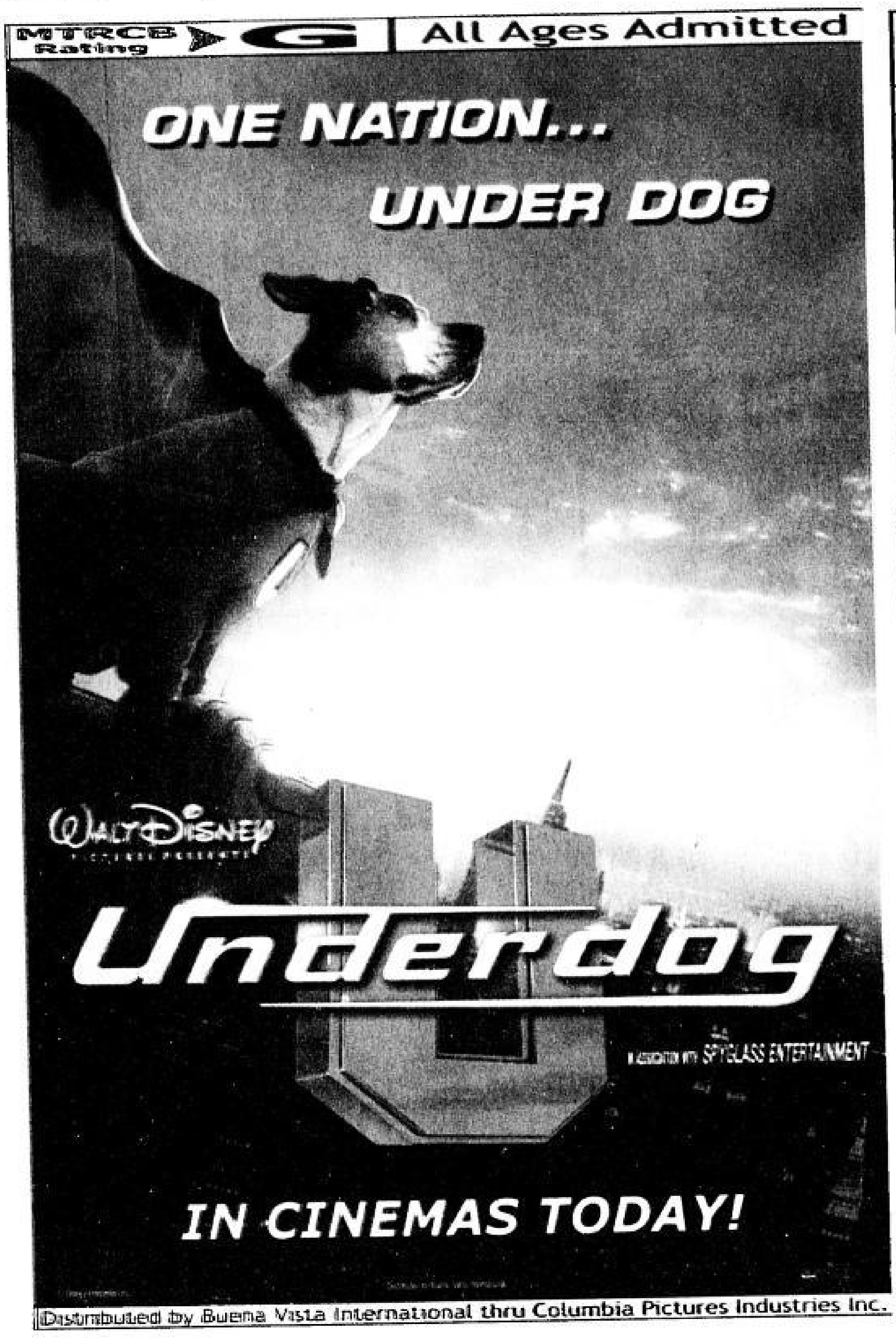
What advice has his dad and mom given him about love? "They pretty much leave me alone when it comes to heart matters," Luis says. "Basta number one *bilin nila, ayaw pa nilang magka-apo!*" Mayor Vi is not quite ready to say, "I love you, Lucky Jr." just yet.

Misleading

John Prats resents the "no comment" remark made by *Direk* **Paul Soriano** (**Toni Gonzaga's** BF) when asked if he's the father of the coming baby of his sis Camille Prats. John feels that Paul should just say "no" instead of misleading the public with a vague reply. (The father of Camille's baby is her BF, **Anthony Linsangan**.)

Paul probably meant no harm. He's just not used yet to the nuances of show biz answers. (*See related items in Rushes,*

LUIS/ E7



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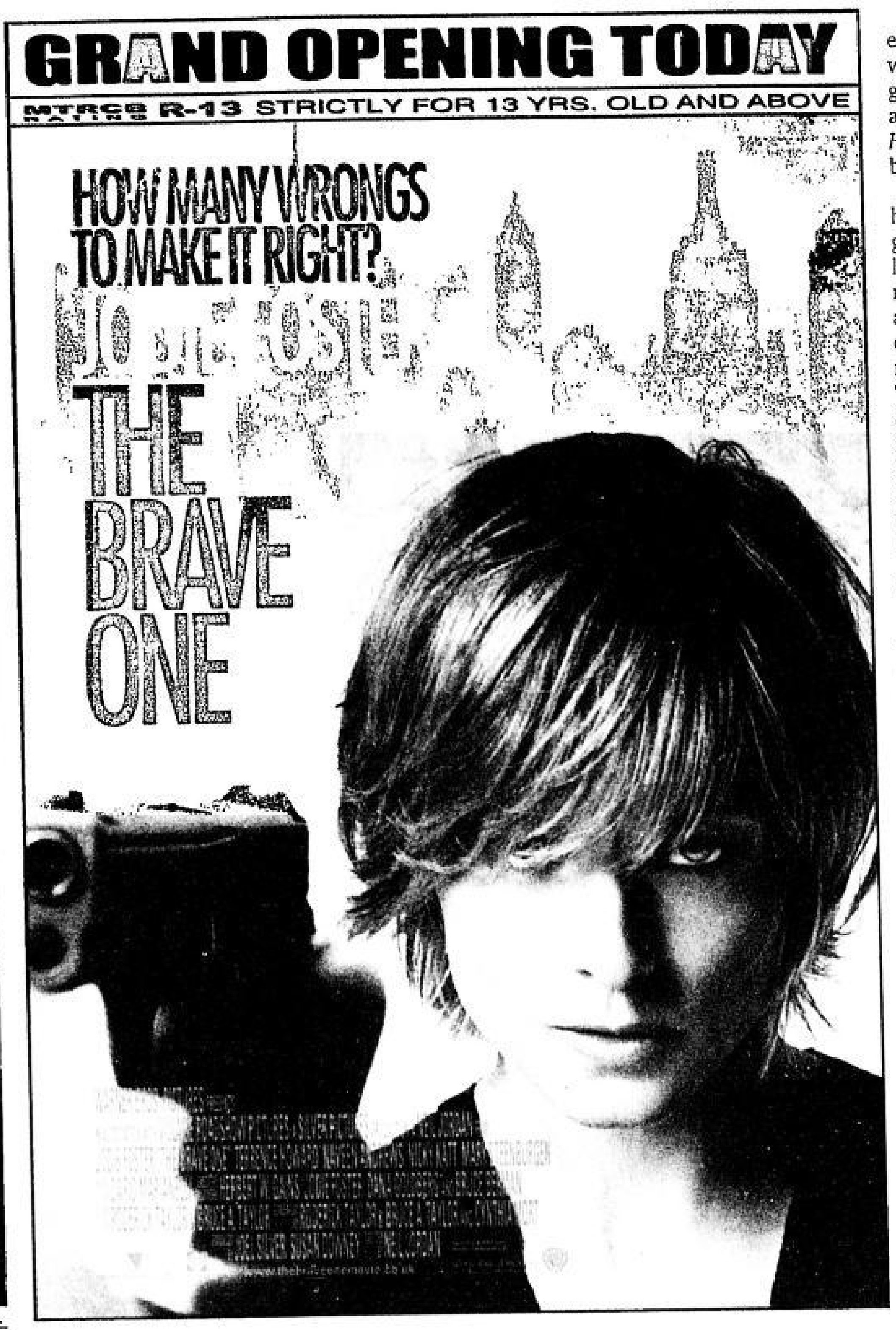

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GLORIETTA 4	UNDERDOG	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME	THX THE BRAVE ONE GUARANTEED SEATS	NANCY DREW / THE INVASION	DISTURBIA	ROGUE ASSASIN	1408
GREENBELT 1	ROGUE ASSASIN	THE BRAVE ONE					
GREENBELT 3	THX ROGUE ASSASIN GUARANTEED SEATS	THX THE BRAVE ONE GUARANTEED SEATS	DISTURBIA GUARANTEED SEATS	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME GUARANTEED SEATS	UNDERDOG GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX THE BRAVE ONE	ROGUE ASSASIN	UNDERDOG	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME	DISTURBIA		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	DISTURBIA	UNDERDOG	PAN'S LABYRINTH	BUG			
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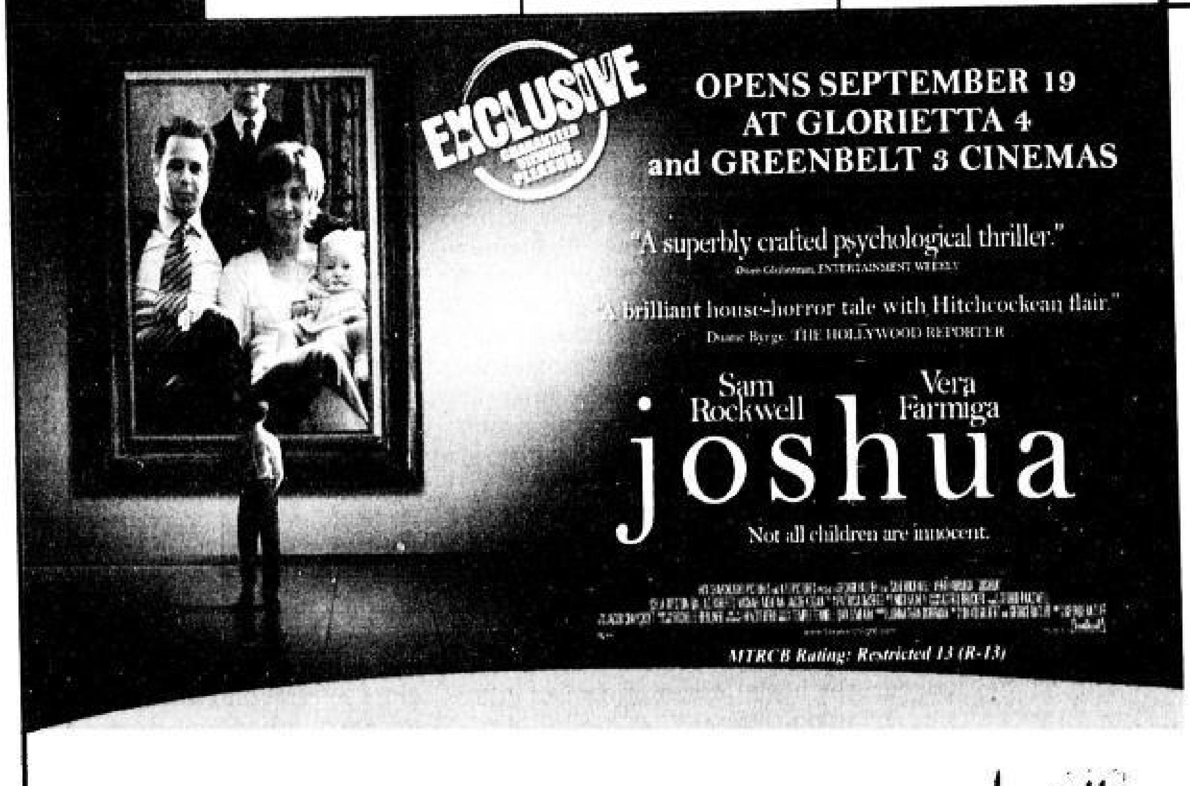
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Anson's Exhibit September 1 to 16, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 PM; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Lactum Mall Show September 8 & 9, 2007 at the Activity Center
OnStage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Antiqueños: Homage to my Kasimanwas August 28 to September 10, 2007 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Samsung Exhibit An exhibit of the latest Samsung mobile phones September 14 to 16; 10am to 9 pm; Starbucks / Food Choices Level 2



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